Fifa to use rankings for World Cup

# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

Saturday 22 November 1997

#### The Greatest?

Today England face the All Blacks. Are they the greatest rugby team of all time? (And, no, we don't mean England.) See Chris Hewett, Time Off, page 24

#### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Tory misery as MP quits

Following two poor by-election results, in which the Conservatives held on to Beckenham with a reduced majority and lost Winchester to the Liberal Democrats by 21,000 votes, another Tory MP left the party to sit as an independent in the Commons.

Peter Temple-Morris, the Leominster MP and a strong pro-European, was provoked into resigning after the party leader, William Hague, had unexpectedly withdrawn the whip from him. This was seen as a bad own-goal on Mr Hague's part by other Tory moderates: the former deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine, publicly rebuked the party's new leader. Labour, meanwhile, denounced Mr Hague as "bonkers". Politics, page 15

#### Public school porn raids

Two public schools - Durham School and Sedbergh School in Cumpria - were among the 15 places raided by police yesterday as part of a co-ordinated operation against a child pornography ring. Videos, computer nent and letters were confiscated, before b checked to discover whether they contained child pornography. Three teachers are believed to be involved in the Inquiry after a three-year investigation. There were no arrests. Page 4

#### Masons must own up

Freemasons joining the police, crown prosecution service and becoming magistrates, will be forced to declare their membership of the secret society under plans being drawn up by the Government. We have learned that a compulsory register is expected to be proposed later this month by lack Straw, the Home Secretary. Page 3; Editorial, page 24

#### Young Britain talks back

After a week of reports about the attitudes and hopes of Britons in their teens and early 20s, our younger readers respond, suggesting that those surveyed are boring or liars; or arrogant. One criticises Swampy as a Luddite; another demands a return to the traditional younger values of "sex, drugs and rock'n'roll". Hamish McRae, author of a book on the world in 2020, concludest that it all points to a Britain which is becoming economically American, but socially more like the rest of Europe. Page 18

#### Remember them?

Knock, knock. Who's there? The Spice Girls. The Spice Girls who? That's showbiz.

On page 23, we ask whether the bubble has burst for the girls, and how they can rescue their careers.



WEATHER Time Off, page 2 TELEVISION The Eye
CROSSWORDS Time Off, pages

# Army scientists kill II,000 animals a year



Sitting target: Rhesus monkeys were shot above the eye in experiments at the Porton Down base Photograph: P Kumar/Planet Earth

The Government has made much of its long-awaited ban on the use of animals in cosmetic testing. But less has been heard about the huge increase in the number used in military experiments - one which looks set to grow further.

The number of animals used and destroyed during military testing, including those subjected to nerve gases and "battle injuries" has more than doubled since 1992, The Independent has discovered.

Last year 11,221 procedures were carried out on animals, including marmosets, pigs, rabbits, Rhesus monkeys, sheep, goats, guinea pigs, rats and mice, by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (Dera), based at Porton Down. This compares with 4,500 procedures in 1992.

Previous experiments have included anaesthetised pigs being strapped onto trolleys and subjected to blasts at close range to test body armour. Monkeys were shot above the eye to investigate the effects of high velocity missiles on brain tissue.

Despite a public outcry, similar experiments may still be continuing. A programme involving officers from the Defence Medical Services which conducts research into the management of battle injury and trauma" has so far this year used 46 pigs, 14 sheep and eight rabbits.

a written answer to Paul Flynn, Labour MP tests to be carried out on animals, initially troops returning from the Gulf War.

for Newport West, from John Chisholm, chief executive of Dera, which states that the animal tests are "aimed at providing the armed forces with safe and effective pro-

tection against specific operational hazards". Mr Chisholm declines to list the procedures to which it subjects the animals but Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, has established that Dera holds 36 separate project licenses for animai testing, of which six were classified as "substantial" - MoD-speak for procedures involving the greatest level of pain

that can be inflicted under the law. The agency's own figures show that tests

#### **EXCLUSIVE** BY JOJO MOYES

on animals have risen steadily from 4,500 in 1992, to 8,700 in 1995 and 11,221 last year. Mr Flynn said he was "horrified" by the increase, and was seeking an urgent de-

bate into the matter. The use of animals in such projects looks set to surge, with the Government's announcement in July of "Gulf Veterans' Illnesses: A New Beginning" - a £2.5m research programme into the effects of vac-

cines and tablets given during the Gulf War. The Government's plans for the pro-The growth of the tests was revealed in gramme state: "The research will require

using rodents, but ultimately ... it will also be oecessary to use monkeys.

In Labour's pre-election policy statement the party said it would "forbid the use of animals in the testing of and development of weapons". But critics, including Mr Baker, say this commitment is not what it seems.

"What they're basically saying is it's busioess as normal at Dera," be said. "The Government are making a distinction between experiments designed to test bullets, explosives and so on, and those to test antidotes to biological and chemical weapons," said Andrew Tyler, of the pressure group Animal Aid, which two years ago launched a campaign called No Defence. "But there is no difference. They all involve enormous suffering and death and all claim some sort of 'defensive' purpose."

In a separate letter obtained by The Independent, Dera explains the increase by saying: "As a result of the increasing potential biological warfare threat it has been recognised that the UK's biological defence capability must be strengthened. This has required the use of more animal studies."

It adds that such studies are only performed "when careful consideration of alternative methods to the use of animals has shown that there is no adequate substitute."

But the efficacy of such tests has been criticised by groups such as Animal Aid, which says that humans under battle conditions may not react in the same way as animals. They point to a US Defence Department statement that recent animal studies cannot explain symptoms suffered by its

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# Star 'dies', is revived and then has to face Chris Evans

The sentiments expressed by the "TF" in Chris Evans TFI Friday show last night had never been more appropriate.

A wave of shock had paralysed the music industry with the news yesterday that Paul Weller, one of its biggest and most popular artists, had died - until everyone realised

it was Friday. That is the day when a tiny minority of bored, and sometimes malicious, industry insiders have traditionally chosen to start rumours. And, to the relief of music lovers everywhere, the one that swept through the business like wildfire yesterday turned out, like so many others, to

A television company, four newspapers and Music Week magazine had been targeted by the hoaxers before Island Records were able, angrily, to scotch the rumour. While

staff at Island and at Independiente music, whose management team includes some of Weller's closest friends, were reduced to tears by calls from journalists about the rumour, the musician was safe and well at the east London studio of TFI Friday, rehearsing for last night's

Within minutes, the boaxers struck again, this time claiming that Gary

Glitter was dead. Again, check calls were made, and, again, the rumour was denied by his management team. Once, at the Reading Festival, similar rumours circulated about Cliff Richard - but there have been many others.

"This sort of thing always seems to happen on a Friday," said Selina Webb, editor of Music Week. "A while ago a rumour went round that Mick Jones of the

Clash was dead - and. thankfully, he wasn't. Before that, it was Billy Bragg, and he was all right too. "The problem is, the

rumours fly around so fast, and, until they can be reliably checked out, an awful lot of people get very upset. No one knows who starts the rumours, but they simply areo't funny."

The music business was also involved in one of the

struck down was not Ronnie, the ageing president, but

most damaging rumours ever

when, in 1987, share prices in

Despite repeated denials

from the White House, stock

became clear that the person

to sweep a stock exchange

Tokyo crashed on the news

that Ronald Reagan had

went into free fall until it

suffered a heart attack.

Lonnie Donegan, the Sixties

## **X** COLUMN ONE

#### Love and affection in the classroom

Teachers could be forgiven for feeling confused. One minute, a teaching union is advising them to "bash and dash" when confronted with a violent pupil or parent.

The next, an earnest group of liberal thinkers is urging them to help children get in touch with their feelings and "find ways of attending to the messages that lie behind aggressive and anti-social behaviour".

For those who prefer not to treat their job as a Gladiators-style challenge, the second option - from an organisation called Antidote - may prove the more promising approach.

Set up two years ago to promote "emotional literacy" among the repressed British. Antidote has now turned its attention to schools with a report titled "Realising the potential - emotional education for all". Battle-hardened teachers used to a life of bashing and dashing might

find the proposals a trifle, well, Californian. Faced with a class of truculent 14-year-olds on a Friday afternoon, how many would be coocentrating on "shifting the blocks that might prevent them. from tuning in to the emotions being experienced by their pupils"? Antidote's members, it must be admitted, include more than a few names

from the intellectual luvvie set, notably barrister Helena Kennedy QC, psychotherapist Susie Orbach (pictured) - who confesses to being "rather unsuccessfully schooled", Carmen Callil - founder of the women's publishing house Virago, and New Labour MP Patricia Hewitt. Financial assistance for the report, launched yesterday in highly un-Californian rainy central London. came from the Body Shop Foundation. The group's "strategy for emotion-

al literacy" would see a redesign of the National Curriculum to include "a focus on enabling young people to understand what they are feeling, and how emotions influence their thinking as well as their values". Teachers, meanwhile,

would be provided with more "opportunities to develop their capacity to understand why children and young people behave as they do - particularly how fear, anxiety or distress come to be reflected in withdrawn or difficult behaviour".

Not only that, says the report, put-upon staff "need to have their own needs recognised and met". They can only do so "if they feel valued and supported by society at large, and if they are given opportunities to share their feelings and experiences with fellow members of the school team". Antidote's founders believe theirs are ideas whose time has come. Head-

teachers have flocked to the organisation's conferences. Could the daily literacy hour, recommended for all primary scherofollowed by an emotional literacy hour, in which pupils would be in get to grips with their teelings for their Tamagotchi? Antidote's members will have none of such silliness. Taking emotional literacy seriously, they insist, will bring a host of benefits for young people, ranging from a fall in bullving, fewer exclusions, less alcohol addiction and more satisfying relationships. Which is more than can be said for bashing and dashing.

#### Warrington bomb

We apologise for the incorrect use in yesterday's final edition of a photograph of the Warrington IRA bombing, which killed two young boys, to illustrate an article about the IRA gasworks bombing in the same town.

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#### **PEOPLE**



#### Gong Li becomes the face of L'Oreal

of L'Oreal in China, where the French cosmetics company is experiencing its fastest growth worldwide.

In February, L'Oreal set up a branch of the company in Peking to supply their products to the burgeoming market in China. In just six months, the firm's make-up, perfume, and skin products have proved. so popular with the Communist Chinese that business is growing faster than any of its other markets

Just how much Gong Li's contract to promote L'Oreal products is worth is unknown, but the gigantic hillboard of the actress in Peking - 40 metres by 15 - is one of China's largest

The Chinese actress is best known for her work with Chinese director Zhang Yimou, for whom she appeared in Raise the Red Lantern, Judou and Shang-

The actress Gong Li, above, is to be the new face hai Triad which was shown at the Cannes Film Fes-Gong Li to the attention of Hollywood. The film was the joint winner (with The Piano) of the prestigious Palme D'Or award at the Cannes Festival. But, ironically, it was originally banned in China and only released when the film's director agreed to cut the pivotal scene of the Sixties Cultural Revolutioo. Gong Li recently played opposite Jeremy Irons

in Wayne Wang's Chinese Box. The film, due ont this autumn, depicts the story of a British journalist in Hong Kong who becomes involved with an ex-bar girl as the colony is handed over to China. Accidemed for her beauty and mystique, the ac-

tress is regarded as the muse of famed Hong Kong designer and retailer Shanghai Tang.

#### Lawyer lied to protect police office fover

A lover's quarrel ended the career at home. But her boyfriend had reverting the course of justice by lying to protect her policeman boyfriend from a drink drive charge.

35-year-old lawyer from Hampshire falsely claimed she was hehind the wheel of her partner, Nigel Phillips's car' - when he drove home after a CID Christmas party. But she had left earlier by taxi

after rowing with the drunken detective, because he was "wrapped round" another woman at the

Schofield stormed out and demanded that a taxi should take her home alooe. The couple were still arguing when taxi driver Stepheo Garner arrived.

"She cried during the journey. It was difficult to sit next to some-

one crying, so I tried to make con-"She told me she was a solicitor

versation," h. said. and high up in the field. She said

The driver dropped her safely

she had been at a police function."

when she was convicted of per- stayed drinking and dancing. He was seen with his arms round another woman. The officer was nearly three

times over the legal limit wheo he party back to the cottage he shared with Schofield. On the way hit the kerb, causing

a puncture, theo drove to Bitterne police station where he was based. Officers there promptly breathalysed him. Facing a drink-drive charge, Phillips rang Schofield and begged her to lie for him and say she was behind the wheel, She told police later: "In a mo-

ment of madness, when I agreed to say that I had driveo, I lost everything - my career, my job with the Crown Prosecution Service and it is likely that I will be struck off by the Law Society."

Schofield has since broken off her relationship with the disgraced detective.

The daughter of a respected retired solicitor, she was highly regarded by other lawyers. A sheaf of testimonies spoke of her as an



"honourable persoo of complete integrity", "fair" and "held in high esteem".

"I have worked hard for that qualification and my whole life has revolved around the legal profession. I am ashamed of what I did and the shame that it has brought on my family. I did it for Nigel, out of stupidity, without thinking of the consequences," she said. Schofield was remanded on bail for pre-seotence reports.

#### UPDATE

#### **EDUCATION**

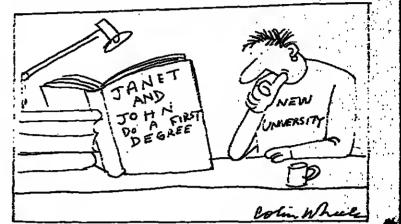
#### University let down students

A new university accused of "dumbing down" degrees in order to pass students has been cleared of deliberately lowering standards but found to have serious administrative and other problems.

Higher education quality watchdogs concluded that standards at Thames Valley University could have been "compromised by administrative failures". In a few subject areas, the Quality Assurance Agency found, weaker students may have fallen below the standards expected of a graduate. The QAA launched an investigation at the university, based in Ealing.

west Loodon, after a Sunday newspaper published allegations of a deliberate policy of lowering standards. The inquiry found that in many areas of the university teaching was good

and learning effective. However, there were serious problems of staff morale and industrial relations, which had damaged student support. — Lucy Ward



#### PROPERTY

#### House prices too volatile for Europe

Taxes on house sales and property ownership should be raised to help the UK join a single European currency, according to a report published yesterday. The rollercoaster rise and fall of house prices could make it difficult for Britain to take part in the project, the Economic and Social Research

It recommended a package of measures including an "automatic" tax on sharp rises in the value of a home and higher stamp duty. The volatility of the market - from the 1980s boom through the 1990s crash and the latest surge - is driveo by the high level of borrowing allowed by lenders and low transactioo costs, it found.

The authors of the ESRC report, Professor John Muellbauer and Dr Anthony Murphy, said reforms such as higher stamp duty, tougher controls oo lenders, and a "significant property tax" could make it easier for the UK to join economic and monetary union (EMU).

#### Cancer patients beat fatigue

Cancer patients could soon be able to beat fatigue - thanks to pioneering new research. Nine out of 10 people having chemotherapy will experience chronic tiredness - an unpleasant side effect which affects their physical, emotional and psychological well-being. Most radiotherapy patients also suffer from the condition.

A team of nurses at King's College, London, led by Dr Alison Richardson, is working to discover if a self-help programme called Beating Fatigue can help. The Beating Fatigue programme aims to help patients tackle fatigue by teaching them different ways of managing it. The strategies include relaxation, light exercise and enjoying good hobbies.

"Parigue is experienced by different patients in different ways, but it will always interfere with a person's ability to just get on with life as oormal," explained Dr Richardson, a researcher for the Cancer Research Campaign.

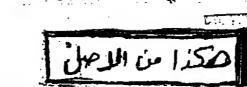
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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman





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MINISTER STREET TO

## New judges and police told they must confess masonic links

Freemasons joining the police, Crown Prosecution Service and becoming magistrates will be forced to declare their membership of the secret society under plans being drawn up by the Government, Josep Bennetto and Colin Brown reveal details of the changes and of a rearguard fight by the judiciary.

students

bear true

All new recruits to the criminal justice system, including police officers, will have to publicly reveal whether they are members of a secret society, such as the Freema-

The introduction of a compulsory register is expected to be proposed this month by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, The Independent has learned.

It follows fears that the estimated 350,000 masons in Britain are abusing their membership of the "brotherhood" in courts and police stations.

Despite the changes for new appointments, existing members of the police and courts may escape the compulsory scheme -instead they could be asked to sign a vol-

Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, is also arguing that a compulsory register for new judges is an infringement of privacy and individual rights of the judiciary and should therefore be excluded from any

Under the expected proposals, conditions of employment will be altered and new appointments must reveal whether they are Freemasons. Anyone caught lying would face the sack.

The Home Secretary is still considering whether to force existing employees to declare whether they are Freemasons, but unlike new recruits this would need legislation and is therefore more difficult ... However, one major problem for Mr

campaigners for greater openness as a peculion who is holding out against a

pledged in March to introduce a compulsory register. This followed a recommendation by the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee that month for a compulsory scheme for judges, magis-trates, police officers and Crown prose-CHIOIS

Chris Mullin, Labour chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said yesterday: "I recognise there's some potential difficulties and that there is bound to be resistance from the vested interests concerned, but I don't think they are insurmountable."

More than 30 judges have been iden-tified from those listed as high-ranking or "grand" officers in the latest Masonic Year

The select committee was also told that 14 of the 96 members of the discredited and now-disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad who served between 1974 and 1989 were masons.

The Police Federation, which represents 120,000 rank and file officers in England and Wales, and the 8,500 Masonic lodges in England and Wales, oppose a compulsory register. However, chief constables, four or five of whom are believe to be masons, have given the scheme their full support.

Mr Straw's determination to act was reinforced by a case in his Blackburn constimency in which two businessmen entered a private function at a hotel which subsequently turned ont to be a "ladies night" organised by Victory Lodge and at which a number of Laucashire police were

The men claimed that they were attacked and thrown out but the police prosecuted them for assault. A jury acquitted them both and they were paid damages.

Last month a Masonic police officer was found guilty of using confidential computer files to help a fellow mason trace his ex-wife's lover.

Straw is that he still has to overcome im-If they are excluded it will be seen by placable opposition from the Lord Chan-



### Raunchy 'Chicago' divides critics on male-female lines

It is, wrote the critics, or some of them, a show to the for. "My kinda show", punned at least two headlines this week, taking a lyric from the old song.

Chicago, a Tony winner on Broadway, has become the hottest ticket in London in its opening week here. But the tale of high-kicking women prisoners in fishnet tights getting nightclub bookings as their criminal notoriety increases might yet earn a less comfortable footnote in musical history - the show that found a marked gender divide in appreciation.

Critics raving over the show have largely been male. Though not all have been convinced by any supposed insights into the justice system, nearly all praised the dancing and sexiness. The cast manage to "bump and grind their way through such sensationally erotic dance routines without getting arrested ...

emphatically a musical for grown-ups and it offers entertainment at its most dangerously alluring," wrote Charles Spencer of the Daily Telegraph. A "highly intelligent, expertly choreographed revival" wrote Michael Billington in the

But the bumping and grinding have struck some female viewers as less than alluring. Germaine Greer, who was at the first night, said: "I found it loathsome. First of all, I was worried by the whole loathsome plot, which implied that when broads kill guys they get away with it, which is precisely the opposite of the truth." She also told the BBC's Late Review that she "hated the style of dancing. the swivelling shoulders and pelvis kind of stuff."

Heather Neill, auts and literary editor of the Times Educational Supplement, said

the attraction of female bodies writhing in fishnet tights, all that is left is the one irony of turning morality upside-down.

"I've got nothing against fishnet tights. But if they hadn't been sexy people, if they had just been people with good voices making this supposed argument about the justice system, if it had been a straight play, then you would have said it was very superficial."

Georgina Brown, theatre critic of the Mail on Sunday. added: "As a show it was incredibly slick, confident, sassy and cynical. But its methods were semi-pornographic. You can call it dancing, but actually it was stuff which would not be out of place in Raymond's Revue Bar. There was one moment when a male dancer had a girl doing the splits just under his chin. He could have had a view up to her tonsils.

"Its methods were crude, but it was set in a women's prison and women prisoners are not going to be subtle. It is a show about corruption and manipulation and those are the methods it uses to deliver its message. There was too much bumping and grinding to be sensual. But it was doing it all very knowingly and on its own terms. I don't accept the show divided men and women. A lot of sensitive men would have felt uncomfortable."

Suzanne Wilford, former education officer with the English Shakespeare Company, said: "Often people in the theatre exploit stereotypes unnecessarily, and it offends people. And the offence extends beyond young women," Peter Thompson, spokesman for the producers of Chicago, said: We simply rion't accept this. Women in the first night andience ranged from Baroness Thatcher to Dame Diana Rigg yesterday; "From the woman's to Sabrina Guinness and they

### London's literati who can't bear to be apart

Ten directors at the Groucho Club, home from home for London's literati, have resigned en masse, but the club's managing director has refused to accept half the loss. Cathy Neuman reports on board turnoil among the Groucho

luminaries.

Tony Mackintosh, managing director, reinstated five of the directors who had offered to leave, but let another five go. Those who will no longer sit on the board, but will remain as consultants, include Rosie Boycott, editor of the Independent on Sunday. Liz Calder, publishing director of Bloomsbury Publishing, and Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber.

The fall-out occurred after the Sohobased Club appointed a consultant to assess the board structure. Mr Mackintosh said having 13 directors in total had made it difficult to take decisions. The consultant had recommended reducing the numbers on the board, and 10 directors came Members only: Eddie Izzard, a Groucho forward with their resignation letters. But Mr Mackintosh could not bear to part with fire of the directors.

One of those retained is Blake Nixon, executive director at Gammess Peat Group, the stockbroker and fund manager, who will help the Groucho in its quest to develop commercially. It is to establish a permanent comedian. wenne in Edinburgh shortly. Another who will stay on is William Sieghan, head of Forward Publishing

Ms Boycott said last night: "I'm a great fan of the Groucho Chib, and a great admirer of Tony Mackintosh. However, the location of Canary Wharf [where her newspaper and its daily sister paper are based in London's Docklands has made attendance of the board meetings more than a bit erratic. I should like to be reconsidered for a directorship of the Croncho Chib should the Independent on Sunday move its offices to Soho."

Such high drama at the Groucho is not poknown. Janet Street-Porter, the media person about sown, created a stir back in a 24-hour bar and a 24-hour bookshop. A 1993 by selling her shares in the club, which plan to put a jacuzzi on the roof was, unshe had held since its foundation in 1984. Surprisingly, scrapped.



## French rail boss blames tardy trains on the trees

England, for some, appears to be a too green and pleasant land. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why a French rail boss wants to chop down the capital's trees.



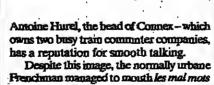
hobitue, and Rosie Boycott, who will stay on as a consultant at the club

Chris Evans, the bad-boy DJ, has been known to drop in for one of his infamous drinking sessions. Other habitués include Liam Gallagher of Oasis, Eddie Izzard, the

However, despite the somewhat meretricious appearance of a number of the clientele, the Groucho does make a profit. Last year, it turned in pre-tax profits of £486,441, an increase of 16.5 per cent.

The story goes that, at a Frankfurt Book Fair 13 years ago, a troupe of London literary types - Michael Sissons, the literary agent, Carmen Callil and Liz Calder, both publishers - decided to create a club to rival the Garrick, which did not take women members.

The name was in memory of Groncho Marx, who joked that he would not want to belong to a club that would accept him as a member. Attractions were to include



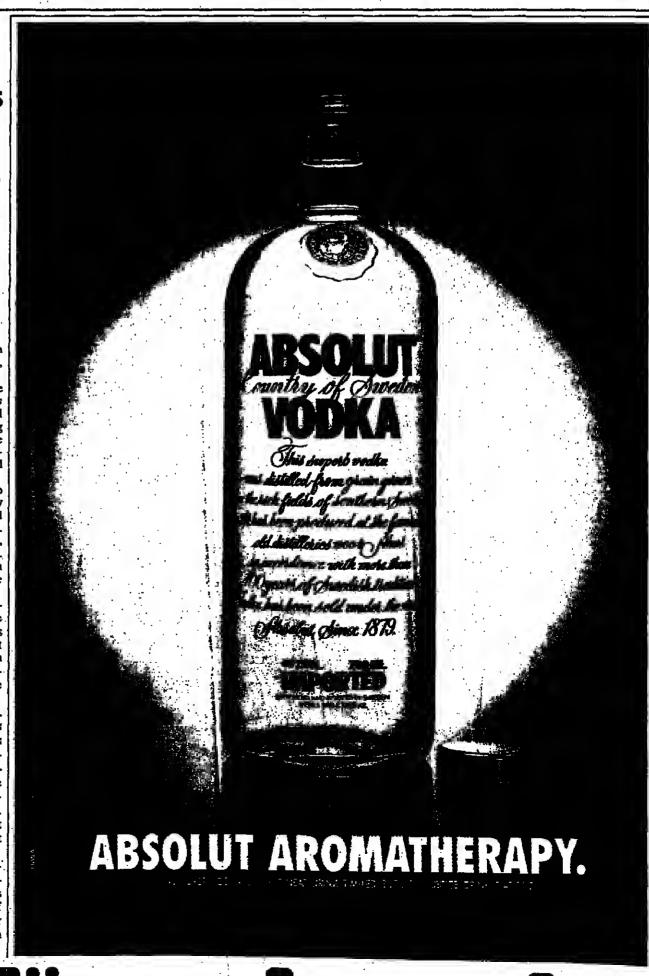
yesterday. In an interview M. Hurel claimed passengers should stop moaning about trains being delayed by leaves on the line and realise it was all their fault. If trav-ellers wanted punctual services they would have to lose the trees. "Is it so important, this attachment to trees, that we take the risk of delaying every

year so many passengers?" fumed M. Hurel in the London Evening Standard. Just in case anyone had missed the point, M. Hurel said: "There are too many trees. We are spending millions of pounds on spreading sand on the tracks just because we are not tackling the problem."

In an outburst designed to turn even Europhiles sceptic, he added Britain had the worst record in Europe for timekeeping as trains slipped on foliage. "This does not happen in other parts of Europe, only on a few branch lines." There was, he explained, a 10-metre strip alongside the tracks kept clear of trees.

Environmentalists were not impressed. Friends of the Earth said M. Hurel's views were "pathetic". Tony Juniper, FoE's campaign's director, said: "I am very angry. Connex have failed to run a decent railway and it's a bit rich to blame it on the trees. The one certain thing for the railways is the arrival of autumn every year. They have had more than 150 years to sort the problem of leaves out and they haven't managed it."

M. Hurel's comments came after passengers throughout southern England experienced long delays because of leafy lines this week. Worringly for M. Hurel, one of those delayed was Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott - who was attending a Beckenham by-election walk about.



## Court frees man in military hacking case

The US Air Force said role of this defendant was sec-Matthew Bevan, 23, from ondary to that of another who Cardiff, was a hacker who posed a national security risk. The police said he was part were recorded. of an international group of hackers. His wife said "1 do" just 56 days after their first contact through an Internet

"chatroom". And yesterday a judge said cleared him of three charges of "unauthorised access and modification" of computer files in the US. Mr Bevan, who was arrested in June last year, was alleged by the USAF to have used the Net to access and alter sensitive research and development files at its Grif-

fiths Air Force base near New York, and the Lockheed Space and Missile Company in California. After his arrest by British police in June last year, he was said to be part of a "phat" - a worldwide Internet backing group.

But yesterday Andrew Mitchell, for the Crown Prosecution Service, told Woolwich Crown Court that it was "no longer io the public interest" for an expensive and lengthy trial to take place. He said: "The court's hands are tied as to sentence and the

was dealt with by a fine ." Three not guilty verdicts

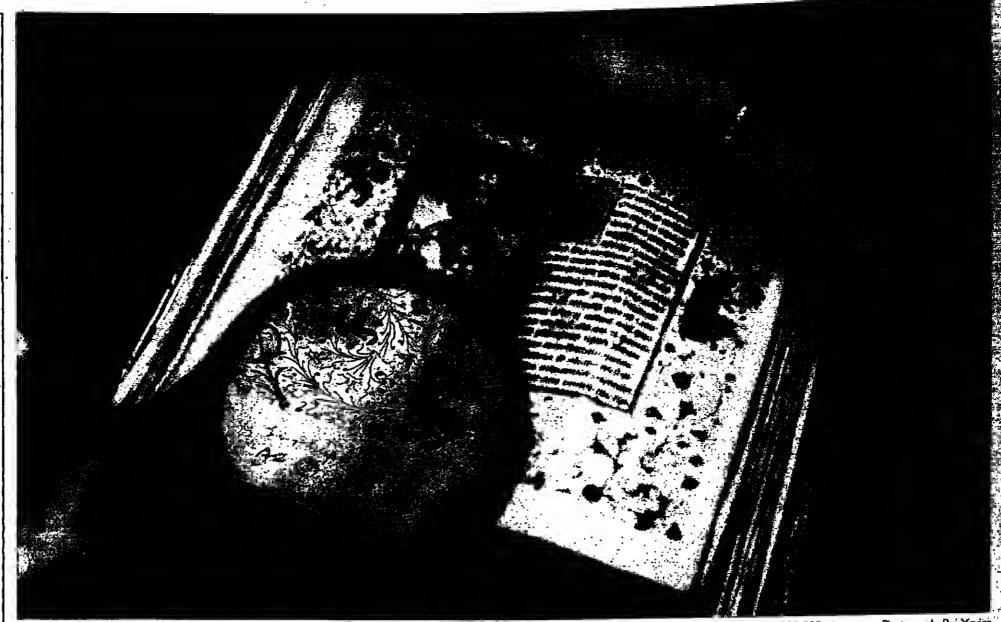
Afterwards Mr Bevan, dressed in a black suit and sunglasses, refused to commeot and was escorted away by two tabloid reporters.

He was initially arrested during a police investigation into the activities of Richard Price, a hacker who at the age of 16 was known as the "Datastream Cowboy" for having hacked into computers at Nasa and USAF bases. Earlier this year Mr Price was fined £1,200 for 12 offences.

Detective Sergeant Simon James, from Scotland Yard's computer crime unit, said afterwards that the incident may have had "serious implications" and cost Lockheed and the USAF \$500,000 (£312,000) to sort out their computer systems.

Simon Evenden, Mr Bevan's solicitor, said: "He is delighted. He has been waiting for this for 17 mooths and can now put it all behind

> Charles Arthur, Science Editor



Words of wisdom: Anne Boleyn's book of hours, which Christie's is displaying in London before its auction, at which it is expected to fetch £300,000

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#### Public schools raided in child porn inquiry home and school were taken of possessing child pornography Police have raided a on his computer.

suspected national child pornography ring, which could include several teachers. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports on the latest attempt to crackdown on the child sex industry.

Two public schools were among the 15 targets raided by police yesterday as part of a co-ordiforces.

Videos, computer equipment and letters have been confiscated, and were being checked yesterday to discover whether they contained child pornography.

Three teachers are believed to be involved in the inquiry after a three-year investigation.

The raids in Operation Clarence took place yesterday at 7am. They include one at Durham School and another at the home of a member of staff from the private school. It is understood that videos from the away by the police. There were no arrests.

Sedbergh School in Cumbria was also searched, where videos are believed to have been seized. Cumbria Police confirmed that the officers were there as part of the co-ordinated child pornography investigation. No arrests were made. The school includes former England rugby captain Will

Carling among former pupils. Christopher Hirst, said in a pected child pornography ring." ment: "I can confirm that the police have requested the terial were seized in a raid on school's co-operation in certain inquiries they are conducting. It is the school's policy to co-op- private houses in Hampshire. erate fully with the authorities

at all times." The operation was organised by the Metropolitan Police paedophilia unit. Scotland Yard sources denied that there was any link with the raids and the removal earlier this week of videotapes and photographs from the homes and offices of rock star Gary Glitter. The

In London yesterday, officers raided addresses in Cheam. Islington, Croydon, Harrow, and Alhany Street in the West End. Material including videotapes, computer equipment and correspondence were seized. The Internet is increasingly being used as a source of illegal sexual pictures. The Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The raids are part of an intelli-Sedbergh's headmaster, gence-led operation into a sus-

> an address in Worcester and material was recovered at four

Merseyside, Wiltshire and Surrey police each searched one address in their respective areas, but nothing was found.

Detective Chief Inspector Jim Reynolds, head of the paedophilia unit, said: "This is a major operation that has been going on for about three years. The fact we have not so far. made any arrests does not mean singer was released on bail af- that this operation has not been ter being arrested on suspicion successful."

#### Bruno and wife 'not to divorce'

Frank Bruno, the former heavyweight boxer, was fighting to save his marriage yesterday after his wife Laura reportedly won a court order banning him from assaulting her.

Laura, 34, is said to have se-cured the High Court order after what friends described as a 'series of violent outbursts".

The Sun newspaper reported that a judge granted a "non-molestation" order banning Bruno, 36, from "assaulting, molesting or harassing" his wife. Yesterday Henri Brandman,

the family's lawyer, said in an statement approved by them: "Frank and Laura are still very much in love. They are trying desperately hard to resolve some difficulties that have arisen in their marriage, particularly with the welfare of their children in mind. "No separation or divorce

proceedings have been instituted or are contemplated."

CJD tests on coma victim

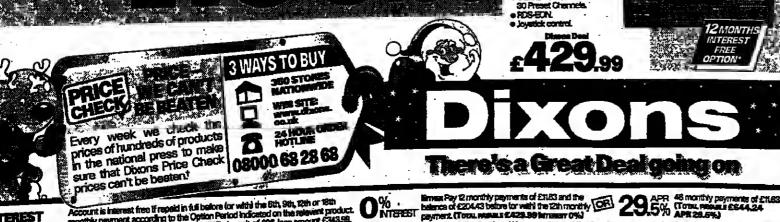
A post-mortem examination was being carried out yesterday on a former kennet worker who may have been one of the youngest victims of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v-CJD), caused by mad cow disease. Vicky Rimmer, 20, had been in a coma for four years at Deeside Community Hospital in North Wales after originally falling ill aged 15.

She had been suffering from pneumonia since May. Her grandmother, Beryl Rimmer, who had visited Vicky every day, was said to be "devastated" by her death yesterday. She and Vicky's relatives have insisted that the illness must have been caused by eating BSE-infected food such as hamburgers - Charles Arthur, Science Editor

#### Inmates held as siege ends

Specially-trained prison officers rushed a barricaded room at a young offenders' institute to end a 19-hour hostage crisis this afternoon. A prison officer being held by two inmates at the Northumberland centre was freed, apparently unharmed. He was taken hostage as immates at Castington Young Offenders' Institute at Acklington, near Morpeth, finished an association period on Thursday evening.

A Prison Service statement yesterday said that the officer received cuts and hruising and was badly shaken. Both youths have been arrested. A police investigation is under way and the Prison Service will launch its own inquiry.



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## 5/CRIME

# Prisoner's inside story helps children stay on the outside

A prisoner serving a life sentence for the murder of a young woman in a bank raid was allowed out of jail yesterday to talk to schoolchildren. The teenagers told ion Burnell that the experience had given them a more realistic

view of life inside.

He did not look like a man who had been sentenced to a minimum of 25 years in jail. Diminutive, neat and bespectacled, Mick Hart arrived at the Logan Hall in central London in a Peugeot saloon and wearing his brother-in-law's grey

If it was not for the presence of an accompanying uniformed prison officer you would never have guessed he was serving a life sentence for a bungled bank robbery in which a young woman died from shntgun

Certainly the teenagers whn came from all over the south of England to hear his account of life behind bars could not tell him apart from other speakers at an event called The Offenders', hilled as a conference for youth on crime and punishment

When asked to pick out the serving prisoner from the guest

raided

teenagers overwhelmingly optis a very violent place. I would ed for a social studies lecturer from the University of Central

But Hart, who had been released for the day from Coldingley prison in Surrey, left them in little doubt of his authenticity with a chilling description of a prison career

describe it as a concrete jungle," he warned. Hart described how a fellow

inmate had committed suicide outside his cell. "He cut his throat, slashed his wrists and left a knife hanging out of his stomach,"

Then Hart, 59, explained his

problem prisoner to a crime fighter, becoming a Christian hile stripped and locked in the strong box - a cell within a cell on the prison segregation unit.

Since then he has set up a project involving other inmates whn have devised a play and video on the brutality of life in jail. Youngsters thought to be panel, the audience of 1,000 spanning two decades. "Prison own transformation from a at risk of following criminal

paths have visited the prison to see productions, although many of yesterday's audience are expected to go to university. But the New Bridge chari-

ty, which organised the conference, feels it is important that such youngsters have a better understanding of the realities of the criminal justice

Helen Jay, 15, from Warden Park school in Cuckfield, West Sussex, was impressed, "It's like a real experience. Better than people just giving you statistics that do not mean anything. It's a lnt more personal and real

and hits you a int harder." Youngsters gathered round the prisoner during the coffeebreak to question him.

"You see that sort of policeman over there, is he guarding you?" asked one boy. The lag replied: "I'm in the 21st year of a 25-year sentence. It would be a bit point-

RIM

less running away now." Perplexed, the lad persisted: "But wouldn't you ever try and escape?" Patiently Hart,

Harsh lesson: Mick Hart, who is serving life. meeting children at a conference in London yesterday designed to help youngsters understand the realities of criminal justice Photograph: Andrew Buurman

I was to go missing now I would be the cause of so many problems for my children and friends. At the moment I have got a good chance of getting out fairly soon."

Anne Wellham, a teacher at The Green School, Isleworth, Middlesex, said that her pupils had been initially fearful when told that a serving prisoner was in their midst. "They felt threatened because they had this very stereotypical view of a prisoner. But when they heard him speak they saw he was a human being."

The governor of Coldingley. John Smith, also attended the conference. "Youngsters don't listen to social workers, teachers, probation ufficers or parents," he said. "They are much more prepared to talk to someone like Mick who has been there and done it."

After 21 years inside, Hart, a west Londoner, admitted he had been taken aback by the speed of Nineties life. But he is negotiating with police to be allowed to continue his crime prevention work after his rewho has three children, said: "If lease in four years' time.

#### Besotted RAF chief wrote schoolboy love letters to woman, court is told

A senior RAF officer accused of murdering his wife wrote besotted 'schoolboyish' love letters to his Serbian mistress. She was prepared to 'prostitute herself', a court was told yesterday. Kim Séngupta

The letter was long but the con- while she was living in Geneva, two weeks. After he had called tent did not vary. Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, aged had written repeatedly, line by line, "I love you" over six pages to a 21-year-old Serbian interpreter, Dijana Dudukovic, a court was told yesterday.

the jury was told. It is alleged he had murdered his 52-yearcrash after becoming infatuatas an UN observer in Bosnia.

Dudukovič's landford in Gene- if I can find one'.". Sun Ldr Tucker also tele- va. told Norwich Crown Court Mr Du Pasquier said Sqn twice. Sometimes lasting five phoned Ms Dudukovic at least that Squ Ldr Tucker also tele- Ldr Tucker wrote, regularly to minutes, sometimes 50 min-

to say his wife was dead, Ms Dudukovic felt her future was 44 with two teenaged children, old wife Carol in a staged car "hreaking down". He continued: "She said, 'Now I am ed with the blonde while on duty ready to do anything, I am even ready to prostitute myself Bertrand Du Pasquier, Ms. and even go with an older man.

Western Europe. She is now married and living with another man in Switzerland.

· He said: "He rang her at least once a day, sometimes otes. One letter from him was

claimed she was "tricky and ma- six pages pages with the same nipulative" and wanted to make words repeated all the time like a secure future for herself in a schoolboy tradition. He was repeating all the time 'I love you' line by line. I read about five pages. I didn't read all the pages. It was signed Nick, she burned the letters."

Two days after Mrs Tucker's death the Sqn Ldr rang Ms Dudukovic while acting as a UN

not write back. Mr Du Pasquier very surprising. One had five or Mr Du Pasquier said: "After that goslavia. He said he had let her call she realised it was not possible for her to go to England with him as was planned. She realised her future had broken down and that she was ready to do anything, even prostitute herself and go with an older man if she could find one."

> Mr Du Pasquier met Ms refugee official in former Yu

stay at his place in Switzerland as a favour to her parents who were worried about her safety during the war. He denied, under cross-examination by David Cocks QC, for the defence, that he had any " sexual intentions" towards her.

Squ Ldr Tucker, of Honingtnn, Suffolk, denies murder. The case continues.

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# 7/HEALTH NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1997

## Blair pressed over tobacco adverts ban

80 national organisations yesterday urged the Government to stand firm on a comprehensive Europe-wide ban on tobacco advertising. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, says they argue that the health reasons for the ban have been obscured by political controversy.

Doctors, health professionals and consumer organisations said attention should be focused tobacco advertising - the disease and death caused by smoking.

Yesterday the organisations. including the British Medical Association, the Cancer Research Campaign, the National Asthma Campaign and the largest advertising agency Abbot Mead Vickers, launched a report setting out the need for robust legislation.

The report, Tobacco Advertising, Sponsorship and Pronto-The Case for a Comprehensive Ban, claims that failure to introduce water-tight legislation will create loopholes and lead to more inventive forms of tobacco promotion.

Campaigners will meet with the Prime Minister next week to put forward their case. They will argue that the real debate has become buried in the political controversy following the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from the proposed European Union Directive.

Dr Sandy Macara, the : BMA's chairman, said: "The Government has been Schumachered and it must now get banning tobacco advertising in back on track. This report sport will be discussed at a makes an irrefutable case for Council of Health Ministers' robust legislation. Anything less than a total ban will be exploited by the tobacco industry - the merchants of death."

Evidence in the report of the harmful effects of smoking includes a survey showing that 80 per cent of asthma sufferers say smoking aggravates attacks. Yet 1.5 million children with asthma live with smokers.

It also sets out clear evidence that children, in particular, respond to cigarette advertising. Adrian Vickers, deputy chair-

An alliance of more than man of Abbott Mead Vickers. said: "Cigarette advertising sends a secondary, much more sinister, message. It is saying that cigarette smoking is OK. A part ban on tobacco advertising would leave this effect of advertising untouched."

He added that a comprehensive ban is the only option, otherwise tobacco manufacturers would use other methods such as direct marketing, gifts or clothes to promote cigarettes.

The Government's own figures estimate tobacco related illnesses cost the economy £1.7bn every year and, despite health education campaigns, smoking still kills 330 people every day.

Smoking levels are increasing on the real reason for banning among children and a recent survey showed the number of adults smoking increased in 1996, for the first time in 25 years.

Dr John Toy, director of clinical programmes for the Cancer Research Campaign, claims the Government cannot afford to make compromises on the tobacco advertising ban.

"The Government cannot continue to ignore the facts - especially on child smoking," be said. "Strong action now will keep today's children out of the cancer wards of tomorrow. Half-baked measure like the compromise on Formula 1 will ensure that the government makes the most important mistake that any government has made on tobacco for the past 20

The Government has come under repeated attack following its decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on tobacco advertising in return for a voluntary agreement to reduce the visibility of tobacco advertising at events.

The European directive on meeting in Brussels on 4 December. The BMA is concerned that confusion surrounding the exemption could mean the EU Directive fails completely.

Dr Macara said: "Our European partners may be unwilling to accept the Government's new position. The Government must do all in its powers to ensure that the directive is accepted at the ... meeting."

If the directive fails the whole of Europe will hold the UK responsible, he added. ·



Unnatural obsession: Many musclebound men and women are so fixated with their physiques that they sacrifice everything to spend hours in the gym honing their bodies

#### How body builders are deluded into pumping iron

Doctors have identified a mirror image of the slimming disease anorexia, in body builders who become obsessed with the bulge of their muscles. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, examines the dangers of pumping iron.

As slimming was the disease of the 1980s, body building may puny suffer from the same delusion as adolescent girls trying to mimic snake-hipped models who think they look fat, Both have a distorted perception of their own bodies.

American researchers carrying out psychological studies of athletes have identified what they call muscle dysmorphism to describe men and women who become fixated with the shape of their bodies. The obturn out to be the disease of the session leads them to sacrifice

women who think they look spend hours in the gym. They are too ashamed of their bodies to go the beach or swimming pool, and many take anabolic steroids to build bigger muscles.

Typically they weighed themselves several times a day, repeatedly checked their appearance in mirrors, and wore baggy sweatshirts and trousers even in mid-summer to hide their bodies. Missing even one day of weight-lifting caused enormous distress.

The study was led by Dr ceives herself as fat. By contrast, \$3m (£1.8m) a year on com-

Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, who was helped by UK colleagues at the University of Keele in Staffordshire.

Dr Pope, whose findings are published in the journal Psychosomatics, said: "The syndrome looks almost like a reverse form of anorexia nervosa. In a typical case of anorexia nervosa, a woman diets until she is severely underweight. Yet, when she looks at herself in the mirror, she per-

1990s. Musclebound men and career, family and social life to Harrison Pope, from McLean in typical muscle dysmorphia, mercial gym memberships. a musclebound body huilder will look in the mirror and see himself or herself as out of shape. We think the underlying pathology of the two conditions may be the same, since they are both disorders of body image.

> in opposite directions," The researchers say more people may be afflicted by the disorder as weightlifting has increased in popularity. Dr Pope said: "Americans spend about

The preoccupations simply go

And this doesn't count the more than a million Americans who work out at home." In the UK concern about

appearance has led some men to seek breast implants to enlarge their pectoral muscles. Customers are mostly body builders making finishing touches. The operation costs £3.500, the same as for a woman, and involves the insertion of silicone implants behind the pectoral muscles, to throw them forward.

## Woman sues over memory loss after electric shock therapy

A woman who has suffered near total memory loss after electro convulsive therapy is suing her health authority. Lawyers believe the case could lead to big damages claims. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at

Barbara Arden-Rowe was an eminent scientist and author of several texts. After her scientific career she became a teacher. Now after undergoing ECT at a local hospital she cannot even read a book - because she is unable to remember the beginning of the last sentence she has read.

The horrific impact on her life caused by the treatment given for post-natal depression even though she had last given hirth 20 years before - has I cannot remember it at all."

prompted her to sue the health authority for damages. Her shocks given to her in 1983 aflawyers believe it could lead to one of the higgest medical negligence series of cases the country has seen.

Ms Arden-Rowe, 63, from Loughborough, whose case was highlighted in a television documentary, can barely recall bringing up her children: "Apparently I took them on the Broads and they had a wonderful time. But

The course of 10 ETC Cheshire, believes that her's that Ms Arden-Rose's experiter a mental breakdown has now made it impossible for her to resume her teaching career. "How can you teach science when you can't even remember the bones in your body?" she said. "I can

can't check hank statements." Her solicitors Alexander Harris, from Altrineham,

read a paragraph, but then it's

gone so I can't read a book I can

only add up three figures so I

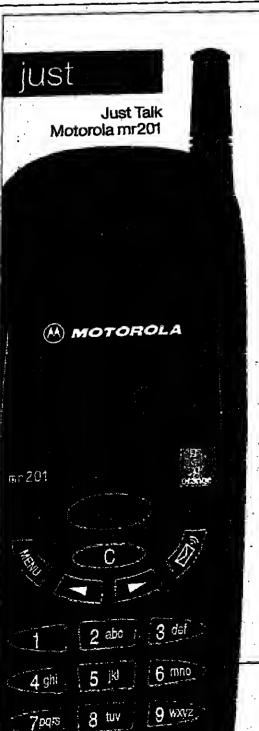
es at a time when 20,000 a year are treated with ECT, a course of treatment considered controversial by some doctors.

Ann Alexander, a senior pariner, said: "Though the medical profession generally believes that ECT is a fast and effective treatment as a last resort for people with severe depression and other serious mental problems, we believe

could be the first of many case ence is not typical of many others and we are seeking to pursue a full investigation to highlight this issue."

Ms Arden-Rowe said the treatment led to her being stigmatised as mentally ill, which was not her condition.

Last night Leicestershire health Authority, which runs the Towers Hospital where she was treated, said it was unable to comment on the legal action.



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## Iraq claims victory as the weapons inspectors return

UN weapons inspectors returned to Baghdad yesterday with the priority of finding weapon stocks that Iraq may have hidden during a tense three-week stand-off with Saddam Hussein.

Iraq's ruling Ba'ath party newspaper, al-Thawra, said: "Our latest battle with the world oppressors in America has led to a added: "We have proved to everyone ... that we have a national iron will."

However, oo crowds turned out to watch the inspectors return, which came a spectors. This would reduce the proportion day after a Russian-brokered deal persuaded President Saddam to rescind an order expelling the American inspectors. In exchange, Russia pledged to work toward and have devastated the Iraqi economy.

At the UN headquarters in New York, an advisory board of the UN commission responsible for scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction held a day-long brain- compliance [with UN demands on weapons gas and mustard gas.

storming session behind closed doors to dis-inspections]," William Cohen, the US Decuss ways of improving its work methods.

Richard Butler, the chief of the UN Special Commissioo responsible for the weapons inspections, said that in accordance with the wishes of Security Council, the board would "consider the present situation that was caused by Iraq, what effect great victory worthy of pride and glory." It it has had and discuss some ways io which we could be made more effective."

One possible outcome would be an increase in the total oumber of Unscom inof American inspectors, partly meeting one of Iraq's key demands. Underscoring US misgivings about the Russian-brokered deal, the United States has cootinued its aircraft carrier USS George Washington arrived in the Gulf on Thursday, and six F-

117 Stealth fighters landed in Kuwait.

fense Secretary, said.

In Washington, while thanking Russia for its role in the tussle with Iraq, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, insisted that Moscow does not have the muscle to influence the United States in getting sanctions on Baghdad lifted in the UN Security Council. "The quick answer is no," Ms Albright said, when asked if Russia, could influence US voting in the council in getting the sanctions lifted.

In Moscow, the Russian media, long used to lamenting Moscow's weakness in international diplomacy since the Soviet Uoioo collapsed in 1991, praised Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov for his medirelaxing saoctions, which block oil exports military build-up in the Persian Gulf. The ation. One publication called the move a welcome change.

The weapons teams in Iraq plan to resume their inspections today, including a "They will be there until there is full search for suspected stockpiles of VX nerve



Toeing party line: Traditional South Korean Confucionists carrying flags bearing the likeness of the ruling party presidential candidate, Lee Hoi-chang, at the party conference in Taejon yesterday, when it merged to form the Grand National Party



Charges that a oumber of bur- the revelation that overnight ial plots in Arlington National Cemetery, the last resting place of US military heroes, were allocated to Democratic Party

donors were denied yesterday. But the very suggestion could further damage President Clinton's already flawed reputation. Among the things that Americans hold sacred are the Constitution, the flag, Abraham Lincoln and the Arlington National Cemetery. Of the strong ties with the military, big many accusations made against President Clinton concerning his fund-raising activities for the

trips oo Air Force One - it was

invitations to White House coffee mornings, funds solicited from White House phones,

Grave disclosure rocks US

stays in the Lincoln bedroom at the White House were effectively "for sale" to big party donors that inflamed the American public most. Now though, B&B in the

Lincoln bedroom has a competitor for worst-judged donorioceotive. According to an article in the next issue of Insight magazine, a Washingtonbased publication that has donors were able to win posthumous honour for themselves in the form of a burial at the ceme-Democratic Party - paid-for tery. When word escaped of the revelations, many American radio talk shows were inundated with people calling in to protest.

Austi

SAC 6 TO

- Mary Dejevsky, Washington

#### Dissident's words of freedom

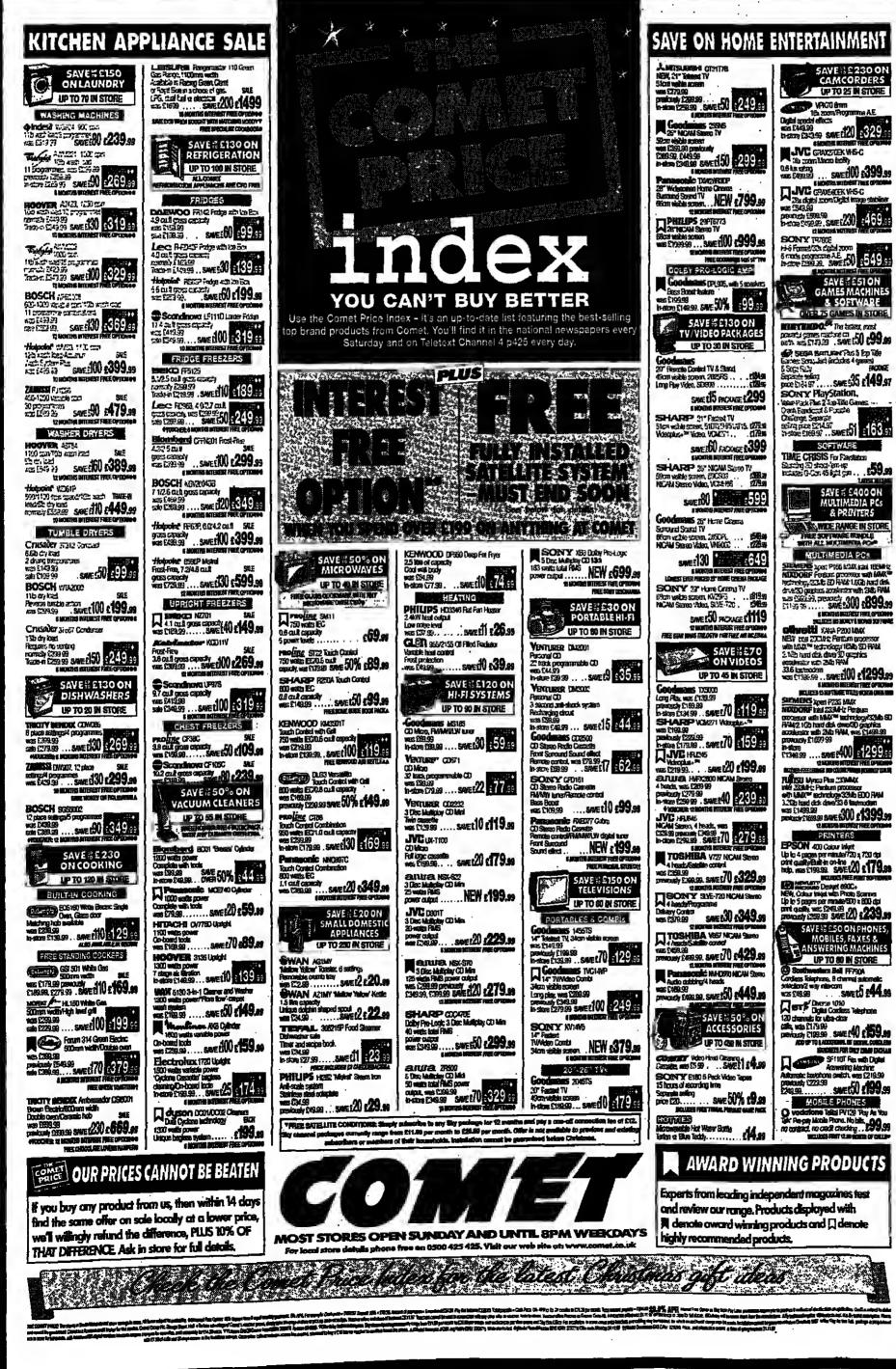
comments as eloquent as his loked gestured and reaffirmed written words, China's best- his commitment both to his known dissident re-entered cause and to China. "I will love public life yesterday with a my fatherland for ever clear message: during nearly 18 whether I'm there or anywhere years in prison, his strong will endured.

"I've waited decades for this chance to exercise my rights to free speech," Wei Jingsheng released Mr Wei from prison have been waiting for centuries."

With humour, presence and had been doing it all his life. He else," Mr Wei said in Chinese. "I certainly plan to go back. In

fact, I never intended to leave." . The Chinese government last Saturday and put him on a plane to Detroit, where he re-- AP. New York





# Football hooliganism: now it's an all-American problem

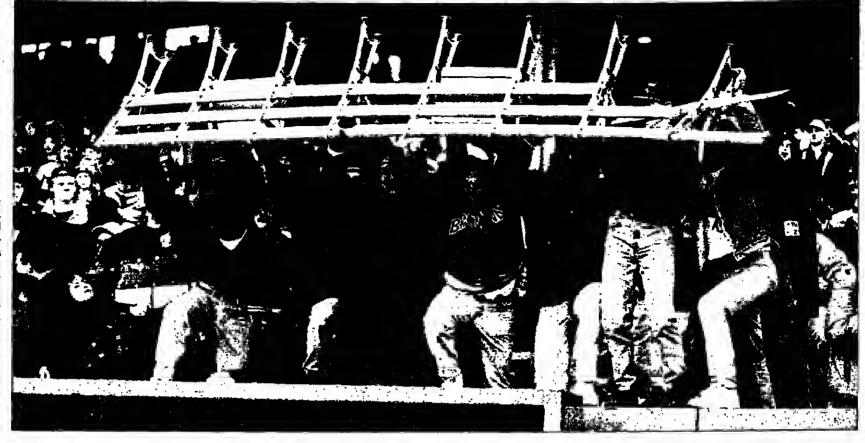
Be careful which door you try when wandering the bowels of Philadelphia's famous Veteran's Stadium when the Eagles are playing at home. You may find yourself facing a stern looking man with black robes and a gavel. He, as David Usborne explains, will be a judge and the room will be a court where hooligans will be tried on the spot.

It used to be a "European problem": the hlight of hooliganism at sporting events that marred the reputations of teams, cities and even whole countries and depressed ticket sales. Now, one American metropolis fears it may have caught the disease and is reacting in astunishing no-nonsense

The city is Philadelphia and what has spurred it into action was a nasty fracas at a Monday night American football game on 10 November. With all the country watching courtesy of coverage by ABC television, a match between the local Eagles team and the visiting San Francisco 49ers ended with ugly fighting between competing fans on the field. One man even fired a flare directly into the stands.

The city and the team owners are joining forces to stop a repeat performance at future games. Starting tomorrow, when the Eagles will play host to the Pittsburgh Steelers, extra police will be drafted in to spuff out any aggressive behaviour. Some will even go undercover in Steelers jackets.

The real innovation, however, will be the



door to where the police already have holding cells for the unruliest of supporters, Judge Seamus Patrick McCaffery will be waiting to dispense some instant justice.

The message is being put out loud and establishment of a court of law in the sta- clear: anyone apprehended at the stadi-

haviour, drunkenness or drug possession will be hauled directly to face Judge Mc-Caffery.

dium itself. Down on the ground floor next um this Sunday and charged with any of a the First Quarter is over, heavy fines will promised. "If you're found guilty, you'll revariety of charges ranging from unruly be- he levied. Judge McCaffery himself, a for- ceive a significant fine. And if you don't pay, mer Marine officer, seems almost to be rub- you will be sent to jail". bing his hands with anticipation. "You will

Anyone holding a coveted season tickbe arrested, handcuffed, taken directly et and found guilty by McCaffery, or an-In short order, guilt or innocence will downstairs in front of a judge, who will be other judge who has also promised to be be pronounced and, perhaps even before sitting in full robes, in a courtroom," he on hand, Louis Presenza, can also expect

INNOVATING ----- COMPUTING ---- FAXING ---- PRINTING ---- COPYING

Before the bench: Cleveland Browns fans protest against the decision to move their team to Baltimore. Violence at the Philadelphia Eagles last game has prompted the city authorities to take drastic action

Photograph: Stephen Dunn/Allsport

to have that ticket taken away. The idea was inspired by the "zero tolerance" approach to crime that New York City mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, has espoused to great acclaim. The sports-court notion is also an adaption of floating "night-courts" that operate in impromptu settings in some of the trouble spots of Philadelphia after dark, especially on weekends. Judge McCaffery is sits in those courts.

Mayor Giuliani's counterpart in Philadelphia, Ed Rendell, is bopeful that the instant-justice solution will be ennugh to douse the football hooliganism once and

Rendell was moved especially by a caller he heard on a radio phone-in programme lamenting that it was no longer safe to take the family to the games. "We can't stand by and say to people, 'Just don't bring you kids to the game'. That's a horrible

statement," the Mayor declared. While scores of fans have been cited hy police officers at games at the Veterans Stadium in the past, most have ignored the court summons and have therefore escaped punishment.

The city says it has not had the resources to chase up everyone cited at the games and force them to appear before a judge, with the judges in situ that problem should be instantly solved.

## Australia's top dollar cricket stars ready to strike for more cash

Australia's top cricketers plan to strike next month over pay and conditions. If they do they will disrupt an international one-day series. Robert Milliken in Sydney reports on a first in Australian

sporting history

\$A500,000 (£217,000) a year, others drive Ferraris and BMWs, and all are considered the best-paid men for their skills in the world. Yet it seemed almost certain yesterday that Australia's top cricketers, including the Test team led by Mark Taylor, would strike next month, demanding

better pay and conditions: It will be the first such ac- said: "Do not go on strike."

tion by a national team in Aus-

during the second Test between Australia and New Zealand in Perth, and the prospect loomed of a summer place the likes of Taylor, the Waugh brothers and Shane Warne, politicians pleaded with the players. John Howard, the cricket-loving Prime Minister,

The stoppage is planned

due to play South Africa and New Zealand in one-day matches. The dispute threatens to drive a wedge through the marked by a war over recruit- Australian cricket world almost ment of strike-breakers to re- as damaging as that 20 years ago, when Kerry Packer hijacked the game to stage his World Series Cricket matches in a campaign to win the television rights for official Test cricket.

He won that war but stands

Some of them earn almost tralian history. As news broke over 10 days, when Australia is to be one of the biggest losers pute between the Australian from the latest dispute. His Channel Nine television network would lose ratings, revenue and Taylor, Warne, Jan Healy and Steve Waugh, who have lucrative contracts as commentators with the network. "I hope there's no strike," said Gary Burns, Changel Nige's director of sport, "Because if there's a strike, things might get ugly."

The row centres on a dis-

Cricketers' Association, representing 120 top players, and the Australian Cricket Board, the controlling body. The association wants to negotiate a form of collective bargaining, which, it says, will give a better deal for lower-paid and unknown players. The board wants to continue a system of individual contracts with players. It has accused the players

the game. The association wrote to member players asking them to endorse the planned strike. By last night a majority had done so.

With stars such as Taylor already earning \$485,000 a year from the board, and Warne, Healy, Glenn McGrath and Steve Waugh a fraction less before their earnings elsewhere from sponsorships, endorsements and television - Ausof wanting to take control of tralians are nulikely to give

much sympathy to the militant

But some old-timers have. Greg Chappell, a former Test captain and selector, said: "This has been going on for 100 years. It's always been a master-servant relationship for the players. Unless the players now can get their reasonable demands heard, it will be like that for the next 100 years. It's about'a principle."

But is it cricket? ~



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# 10/HUMAN RIGHTS

# Marching for the children who bear the world's burden

This week, preparations began around the world for global action to attack the evil of child labour. Domestic legislation has proved toothless, and campaigners want to shock the world into doing something more substantive. Peter Pophom interviews the man who heads the global campaign.

On Thursday 20 November, the "Universal Day for the Rights of the Child", hundreds of organisations, from London to Rio and from Manila to Mexico, announced their involvement in a global march against child labour.

The march will begin in Manila oo 17 January 1998. In February and March, other strands of the march will get under way in Rio and Capetown, and the different streams will converge on Geneva in early June, when the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will meet to draft a new international convention to ban the most intolerable forms of child labour.

The man who conceived the global march is Kailash Satyarthi, the founder and head of the South Asia Coalition against Child Servitude (Sacs). "The 20th ceotury has seen enough of the globalisation of the ecocomy and armaments," he said at the headquarters of Sacs in a Delhi suburb. "Io the coming cectury we need to work together for the globalisation of human compassion and solidarity."

Marking the Children's Rights day, two thousand young people marched in central Delhi, neatly turned out children from private schools in pressed uniforms holding hands with poor children taking time off from slaving in sweatshops, to protest over the persistence of child labour.

It is appropriate that India should be the country where the idea of this global initiative originates, as it has far more workers under the age of 14 than any other country, 17.5 million according to government figures, but Mr Satyarthi believes the true figure is 60 million, more than the population of Great Britain. They are found in low paid labour of every description, from rag-picking, serving in cheap cafés and selliog peanuts on the street, to carpet weaving and stitching trainers. Although the West's attention has been focused on items the West consumes, notoriously the footballs emblazoned with Eric Cantona's face, according to Unicef, factories turning out internationally traded commodities account for less than 5 per cent of the world's child labour force.



Much anguished debate in the West, at had a strict law against certain forms of child forums such as the international conference labour on the books since 1986, but ac-working in shops, quarries, selling balloons in Osio last month, has centred around what can be dooe to tackle the problem. Blanket boycotts of countries such as Iodia, it of labour inspectors, who are some of the is generally agreed, make things worse. The most corrupt officials in India," he says. imposition of a ban oo child labourers at garment factories io Bangladesh led to the as a result of Mr Satyarthi's frustration in instant dismissal of 50,000 children, many of whom were forced to turn to ragpick-

tance earned by a working child can amount to a quarter of the family's income.

ing or begging to save their families from

destitution: in the poorest families, the pit-

cording to Mr Satyarthi, such laws are never implemented. "The law is in the hands

The idea of a global march came about bringing change about by conventional means. "Twe been working oo this issue for 17 years. In India there is oo dearth of constitutional guarantees, laws, ILO conventions and so on, but they are oever implemented. There has never been a se-In India and other countries, domestic rious demonstration of genuine political will legislation has proved toothless: India has to do something about it. The problem ex-

ists io froot of our eyes - we see childreo to motorists in central Delhi at midnight - but we ignore it.

That's why we thought we should go to the common people and build up the momentum of awareness about the issues among them, bring home to them the importance of the right of education."

in the history of India's social development. Mr Satyarthi's original inspiration was a march more than 2000 years ago that started from his home town in the state of Madhya Pradesh, through which Buddhist missionaries planted the seed of their phi- mote villages wheo the march arrived. We

losophy in central Asia. Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March, in 1930, was one of the most important moments in India's struggle for freedom from Britain. And an earlier loog march against child labour, which zigzagged 5,200km (3,200 miles) from the soothernmost tip of India to Delhi, achieved impressive results. "It raised the profile of the rtance of the right of education." issue and put huge political pressure on the Epic marches have an honourable place government." Mr Satyarthi says. "The issue was raised 100 times in parliament, and the central government was compelled to initiate programmes on child labour. It was

the first time it became a political issue." Just as important was the impact oo re-

Hard work Some of the child labourers (left), many under 13 year of age, seen working on a Delhi building site this week. Kailash Satyarthi (above, pictured courtesy of Unicef), founder and head of the South Asia Coalition against Child Servitude, has initiated a march against child labour which will bring together hundreds of organisations from all over the world, beginning in Manila in January, in Rio and Capetown in March, and converging on Geneva in June next year Main photograph: Tom Pilston

suddenly turned up on their doorstep in the middle of the jungle like a miracle, and we were able to explain to them how, if their children work, it condemns families to poverty because the children's lack of education preveots them getting better jobs when they grow up."

Sixti

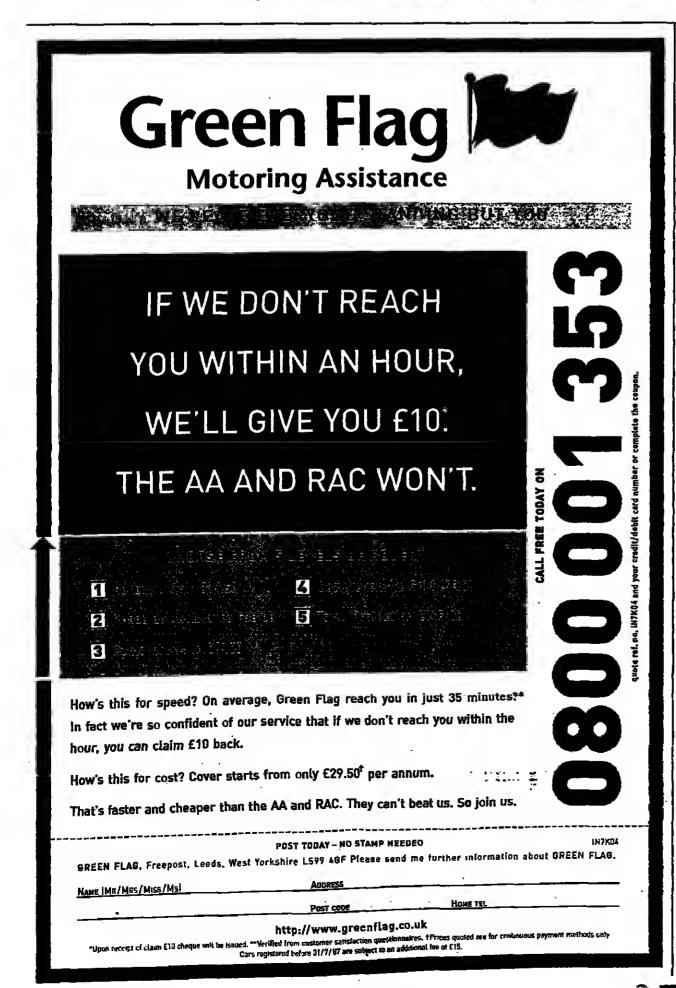
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What is terrifying in Iodia is the rate at which the problem is growing, in tandem with the equally alarming population . growth. Even the government's flawed figwres indicate that the oumber of children working is growing at a rate of 25 per cent every 10 years. "Poor families have many childreo precisely in order to put them to work as young as possible, to feod off destitution," he says. The traditional belief was that oumerous children were an insurance against poverty in old age. It is a measure of the desperation that consumes the world's poorest countries that it is oot future comfort but present survival that motivates the poorest of the poor.

Mr Satyarthi believes that only global pressure - oo governments, employers and communities - can begin to min the tide.







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Replay: Jeff Randall, played by Mike Pratt (left) with Kenneth Cope as Marty Hopkirk's ghost, in Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased), which is to return, recast and revamped, to the small screen

## Sixties hit set to rise from TV graveyard

For anyone of a certain age, Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) means running home from school in a pair of flares to watch television. Now the series is being re-made. Paul McConn. Media Correspondent, wallows in nostalgia.

Long before Britain had heard of Martin Bell, Neil Hamilton or Tatton, Marty Hopkirk was the good guy in a white suit on British television. And now he's coming back.

the film Trainspotting.

PolyGram Film's television division, Working Title, has the rights to the cult Sixties private detective series, and has new scripts by the writer James Mclanes ready to go into production.

PolyGram bought the rights from Lord Lew Grade's ITC television library and is using a loan from the European Media Two programme to fund development of the series.

No stars are yet in place to play the detectives but the series is just the latest development in the trend for so-called nostalgia TV. Last week it was reported that Charlie's Angels is to be resurrected

ing re-made by the company that made ton Studios in London The Professionals is being re-made.

The boom in nostalgia TV reflects a feeling among television executives that many of the best popular television ideas come from a creatively fertile period in the Sixties and Seventies. The more cynical believe that, rather than take risks, producers are turning to old formats.

As everyone over the age of 30 knows, Randall and Hopkirk was a two-man detective agency until Marty Hopkirk was killed in an apparent car accident in the first episode in September 1969.

For reasons that are never made quite clear they become a one man, one ghost, detective agency when Marty's spirit

his deceased partner, who wore a white suit to identify him as a ghost.

Marty Hopkirk made a useful detective in that he could walk through walls and doors and transport himself by closing his eyes and simply wishing to be somewhere. Thanks to this spying on the bad guys was Marty's speciality. Unfortunately, his temporal nature also meant that each week he had to stand by helpless while Jeff got beaten up.
The series, inspired by the Noël Cow-

ard play, Blithe Spirit, was produced by Dennis Spooner, the man who made the other cult detective hit of the late Sixties, Department S.

mystery each week. Only Jeff could see who became famous playing Jed Stone in Coronation Street for five years, also in the

> Sixties, ·Cope also appeared in many other classic Sixties series, from Doctor Who to Dixon of Dock Green. He was last seen in a guest role in Casualty, before changing careers and running a restaurant in Oxfordshire.

> Jeff Randall was played by the leatherfaced and laconic Mike Pratt who died in 1976. In the series Jeff maintained a discreetly chaste relationship with Marty's widow Jeannie which may be difficult to sustain in the less strait-laced Nineties.

PolyGram is maintaining a silence on the new series until it secures actors and a broadcaster, but the series is expected

### Insurance ads forced off air by complaints

The Independent Television Commission has suspended the transmission of an advertisement by Direct Line after complaints from rival insurance companies.

Broadcasters have been told not to show the advertisement while the ITC investigates complaints that it was misleading. Direct Line says its campaign has now end-

The ITC said it received seven complaints accusing the telephone insurer Direct Line of showing traditional insurance

brokers in a damaging way.

Among the companies who complained was Norwich Union, which accused Direct Line of being "intentionally and damagingly misleading in its portrayal of brokers".

John Kitson, marketing manager for Norwich Union, said: "We are delighted with the ITC suspension and it is a real victory for the insurance broker and Norwich Union. We believe Direct Line has intentionally tried to portray brokers from the past rather than the present.

"Not only did we consider it misleading to the public, but also very damaging to the business of thousands of highly efficient and modern insurance brokers."

An ITC spokeswoman said: "We are investigating the complaints at the moment and have requested that broadcasters suspend the advertisement while we look into

The advertisement features a Direct Line operator answering questions posed by a potential customer and has scenes including a high street broker's shop and a car accident.

A spokeswoman for Direct Line said: We are disappointed to see Norwich Union making these claims, "But the fact that the ITC has suspended the advert does not mean that any of the complaints by Nor-

wich Union or others have been upheld." Earlier this year, Direct Line ran another controversial campaign where it asked rival companies to appear in its commercial if they could match a series of its product promises.

When a number of rival insurance companies came forward, Direct Line was effectively forced to give them hundreds of thousands of pounds of free air-

## SAFETY RECALL

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Please take this notice to your fridge/freezer or larder fridge and follow our Instructions for completing the

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2.Copy the Model, Product & Serial number off the label, into the box below, against the words 'Model No. Product No. & Serial No.'

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4. Now check from the serial number box to see if the first three digits appear in the following Serial numbers:

512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525.

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Service Force engineers. It is important that until our engineer calls you should keep the weight stored in the door to a minimum. Heavy containers such as milk and soft drinks for example, should be stored on shelves inside the fridge, not in the door.

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## Wales in space? And Dragonfire's mission control is based in a pub

The Bell pub in the heart of the Powys farming community serves as mission control for the first attempt to put a Welsh rocket in space. But, as lan Burrell reports, the **project** is entirely serious.

Max Boyce, the Welsh comedian, once included in his routine a fanciful sketch about the principality's attempts to put men on the moon. Yes, the Welsh aeronauts concluded, it by parachute. was made of cheese, and yes, it tasted of Caerphilly.

Plans by Newtown (population 11,000), in the hills of Mid-Wales, to style itself as a rival to Houston, Texas, as a centre for launching rockets, might also seem like a joke.

But the team members who style themselves Casa (Cymru Aeronautics and Space Administration), believe they are on the verge of creating history.

No amateur rocket launcher has succeeded in sending a projectile into space, which under the European definition is 100km into the air.

In January, the 15-strong Welsh team will carry out its first test-launches on a 45-feet long rocket powered by a mixture of polybutadiene and people who might be conliquid oxygen. If they are successful. Casa will aim to put its "Dragonfire" rocket into space in the spring, as soon as weather conditions are favourable.

The Bell's landlord, Peter Burt, has been overseeing meetings of the space committee. Mr Burt is a space fanathostelry with the prototypes of his earlier, less ambitious, rocket launches. His best effort was a missile with a fibre-glass nose cone which attained 1,500 feet in 1995 before descending

From behind the bar, Mr Burt serves pints of a new real ale, named Dragonfire, which is brewed locally and helps to raise funds for the space programme. It also fuels the debate among members of the space committee, which includes an industrial chemist, a computer wizard, a trajectory specialist and a member of parliament. Lembit Opik, the local Liberal Democrat MP, is another space enthusiast, whose conversations with the publican while canvassing in the area a year ago sowed the seeds for the

Dragonfire project. Mr Opik said: "Outsiders laugh but ... [local] people take

this project very seriously."

launch went wrong. "It's propelled using a relatively safe material which only burns in a stream of high-pressure oxygen, which means there is no risk of

it exploding," he said. "If it falls ... the biggest danger is that you get bashed on the head." ic, having decorated his For which reason, the committee has lined up a remote site at Plynlymon, the second highest peak in Wales.

The team is trying to raise £250,000 from Weish companies to finance the remainder of the project. A Dragonfire project website is set to attract further commercial interest.

"People need to be sure that this is a serious project before they start investing money," he said. "What this venture is about is promoting scientifie education in Wales."

Welsh schools have been invited to submit ideas for scientific experiments which can be carried out while the rocket is in space. Firms have already promised to supply diggers, enerators and the scaffolding

Mr Burt said: "We intend to control the rocket on its journey back and return it to its original launch site which is something that not even Nasa



has been able to achieve so far." Countdown: The Newton space team erecting a half-size model of the Welsh rocket, set to be launched in the spring Photograph: Andrew Buurman



## Sheep-dip pollution prompts crackdown

**Upland farmers** carelessly disposing of a new kind of sheep dip are wiping out life in mile after mile of rivers and streams. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, says that the Government's Environment Agency has plans to crack down on the polluters.

In Cumbria alone, about 90 miles of river have been damaged by the new synthetic pyrethroid (SP) sheep dips leaking into the water.

The chemical wipes out most of the tiny aquatic insects, crustacea and other invertebrates near the base of the food webs. This starves the fish and that, in turn, deprives otters and river birds of their fish food. Streams have also been harmed in upland areas of the West Country and Wales.

SP dips have been marketed as a safer alternative for rid-

A love-struck Dutchman who

was seduced by his English girl-

friend into swallowing cocaine

it into Britain was jailed for six

years yesterday.

worth £115,000 and smuggling

Ernest Wiredu, 35, who

could have died if any of the 91

packages of cocaine had burst.

stood to make just £1,400 by

breaking the law. But suspicious Customs officials stopped the nervous-looking courier the

moment he arrived from the

Netherlands on a cross-Chan-

nel train at London's Waterloo

Southwark Crown Court in

London heard that a total of 714

grammes of high purity co-

caine was later recovered from

him. The court was told hardup Wiredu, who had never

been in trouble before, became desperate after learning that his mother was unwell and needed

money. He poured out his prob-

tems to his girlfriend who saw

an opportunity to make some

The woman, who has never

been caught, introduced him to

a drug dealer and then per-

suaded him that this was the

But Judge Paul Focke QC, told Wiredu, who admitted one count of smuggling, that despite his personal problems and the

help he had given to police in an attempt to track down the others involved, there was no

alternative to a long sentence of

"You knew full well what you were doing," the judge said.

imprisonment.

best way out of his dilemma.

cash for herself as well.

station two months ago.

**Smuggler** 

ding sheep of parasites than the organophosphate dips which have caused severe, chronic illness in many farmers. Sales have soared over the past five years. But according to the Environment Agency, they are up to one hundred times more lethal to river life, and a teaspoonful entering a stream can wipe out invertebrates for hundreds of metres downstream.

Farmers are currently asked to follow a Code of Good Practice when they dispose of surplus dip. This allows them to vided it is at least 10 metres from any river and 50 metres from any well or borehole.

But the European Commission reckons this is inadequate, and is prosecuting Britain for failing to comply with EU water pollution laws. The Goverument has responded by promising new regulations covering the disposal of waste dip. to come into force next year.

When these are issued the agency expects to be put in

charge. Farmers wishing to dispose of dip on their land will have to get its permission. If there is any risk of dip reaching a river, this will not be granted.

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PORSER IN COME.

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The agency's pollution prevention manager, David Griffiths, told a sheep farming conference yesterday: "We will not hesitate to prosecute where there is evidence that farmers have caused pollution."

Both coarse and game fishermen are calling for the SP dips to be withdrawn. They can also cause problems when the wool from dipped sheep passes through processing and cleaning plants - their effluent can harm rivers. The Environment Agency is talking to the textile industry about tackling that.

Grampian Pharmaceuticals, which sells most of the SP dip in Britain, said that provided the instructions accompanying the product were followed there should be no damage. It had sent details of the Code of Practice to all 8,000 of its cus-

#### Aberdeen road-pricing plan gets six years

Road pricing is being considered by councillors in Scotland to pay for a 17.5-mile route around Aberdeen. The Western Perinheral road, costed at £80m, is unlikely to be financed by the Scottish Office; instead, councillors commissioned a report into alternative funding. Simple "cordon tolls" - where motorists pay before joining a road - have been considered, as well as more sophisticated tolling technologies.

Making motorists pay for using roads has become a regular feature of councils' plans to raise revenue and tackie conges-tion. Authorities in Bristol, London and Edinburgh have all put forward road-pricing schemes.

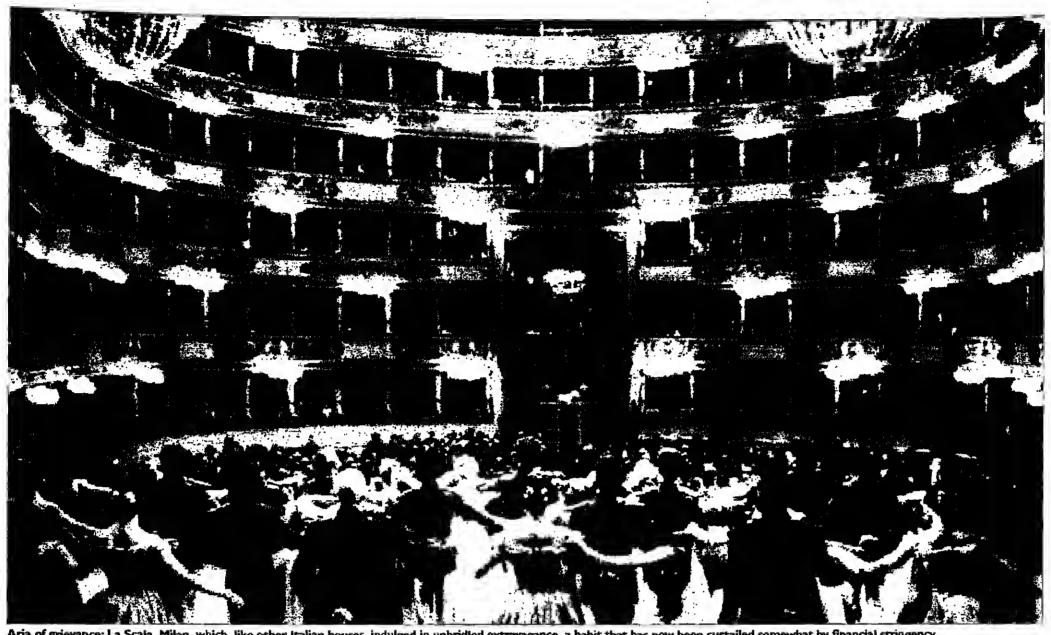
However, environmentalists said that Aberdeen's move is "going about the problem in the wrong way". Simon Festing, a-spokesman for Friends of the Earth, said: "Some of the money, preferably all of it, raised should be used to fund public-trans-

Randeep Ramesh, Transport Corresponden

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## Extravagance is opera's lifeblood. Our top companies are being squeezed - so how do other countries cope?



Aria of grievance: La Scala, Milan, which, like other Italian houses, indulged in unbridled extravagance, a habit that has now been curtailed somewhat by financial stringence

## Chorus of accountants calls the tune as state largesse is slashed

ution

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histrionics and reluctant belt-tightening in Italy, opera's spiritual home.

There was never a show quite like it. Aida might demand elephants and Berlioz's Les Trovens a cast of thousands, but Gian Paolo Cresci - notorious general manager of the Rome Opera in the venal early 1990s - knew how to make a spectacle of himself in a way that the great operatic composers was ditched just in time to keep the bailiffs

of the 19th ceptury could only hint at.

Mr Cresci hired staff by the hundred and dressed them all in livery coats, threw cham-Andrew Gumbel in Rome examines pagne parties whenever the spirit moved him and ordered priceless Persian carpets houses - all funded exclusively by the state foundations. They are still eligible for the state has offered "compensation" monfor his foyer. To keep the morale of his fire prevention staff high, he gave them all free English lessons. Never was so much effort thrown behind so little - a mere dribble of indifferent performances each year - but Mr Cresci did not seem to mind.

As one of his highly placed political mentors once commented, he was an opera all by himself. Naturally, this state of affairs could not last, and when Italy's magistrates launched their anti-corruption drive in 1992. Mr Cresci and his system of management

away. And Rome was not the only prob-painful coming of age in the intervening ber of performances and brought in as much

ton extravagance. Each had hundreds of largely useless full-time employees on its books (all of them members of powerful and highly fractious unions), spent far too have to find a way to break even. much money on sets and costumes, never stooped to revive productions, even successful ones, and managed no more than

a few dozen performances a year. The state pumped in more than 400bn lire each year (£150m), and saw a return of barely 10 per cent on its investment. The

lem facing Italy's new generation of polityears. Since last summer the 13 houses have as 30 per cent extra at the box-office. ceased to be enti. or state-run enterprises, For decades, the country's 13 opera and are now managed as self-financing enough, however, to balance the books, and - had developed varying degrees of wan- state funding, but with a ceiling of 40 per cent of their overall hudget. Not only do they have to find private sponsors for the first time in their existence, but they also

The results have been rather mixed. Perhaps predictably, La Scala in Milan has had little difficulty attracting private sponsors, including banks, energy companies and the tyre manufacturer Pirelli. The Rome Opera, under its energetic new manager, Sergio Escobar, has cut its costs by about Italian opera world has undergone a 30 per cent, dramatically increased the num-

The turnaround has not been rapid cy for the cuts that have been inflicted. The unions, predictably, are forecasting the end of the world as they know it, but there seems to he genuine concern about the viability of the new regime, particularly for the smaller, less well-known houses.

The reforms have also left a questionmark over La Fenice, the Venice opera house, which hurot down nearly two years ago. With all this cutting going on, rehuilding funds have been thin on the ground and it could take years before the new house gets back on its feet.

#### **NEW YORK** Bullish Wall Street can boost fortunes

The health of the classical music scene in the United States, and New York in particular, depends not so much on public subsidy as on the bullishness of Wali Street. David Usborne explains the differences in financial culture across the Atlantic.

For now, at least, the National Endowment for the Arts, the federal government body that distributes cash to the arts across the United States, is still breathing. But only just and the Republicans still hope some day to kill it.

This, of course, is bad news for the NEA's heneficiaries. Among them is the Metropolitan Opera in New York. which this year received a sharply reduced grant of \$350,000, harely enough to satisfy the cost of a single star soprano in one winter production.

The Met, however, is not quaking (and the Republicans know it), It, like so many other cultural institutions, is used to getting only dribbles of money from the public purse. More important to it by leagues is the money it can squeeze from kindly patrons, ranging from rich individuals and businesses.

And in that regard, the position these days could hardly be rosier. The economy is booming across the country and, more particular to New York, the wealth of many is being exponentially boosted by the bull run on Wall Street. The Met and several other New York artistic centres, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the city

library, are reporting record takings. Donations from individuals has always been critical to the Opera. Indeed, its foundation in 1885 is credited to a certain August Belmont, a Jew who decided to build his own opera house after being denied a box at what was then New York's main opera venue, the Academy of Music.

Diana Beattie, a leading society fund raiser in the city today, underlines the boon that the Wall Street rush hrings to the Opera and other institutions. "The ripples from Wall Street just can't be overestimated," she said.

Arlene Schuler, director of development at the Lincoln Center where the Metropolitan Opera is housed, said: "Everyone is riding the wave of the economy. The Metropolitan Opera, Juilliard, the City Ballet have all just launched or are about to launch capital campaigns. We all want to take advantage of this opportunity while it's here."

And then there is the revenue that the Opera can generate for itself, through ticket sales but also through merchandise sales in shops and through its publications departments.

Recent statistics show opera gaining in popularity in most urban centres of America, with fans increasingly willing to shell out huge sums to huy seats for entire seasons. Even with single seats going for \$150 a pop, the Metropolitan Opera is a regular sell-out.

## The Bastille falls to the level of a national soap

FRANCE

How does Paris manage to sustain five opera houses? All is not what it seems. Lucy Reid finds that Paris is also having trouble putting its houses in order.

Opera" when it opened in 1989, has become more like a soap opera. Recent episodes include the sentencing of the former chairman, Pierre Bergé, to 10 months' imprisonmeot and a fine of £3,000 after a set what resemble enormous fishing nets pared to only five in 1995.

The new chairman, Hugues Gall, is in charge of the two main opera houses, the nineteenth-century Opera Garnier and Bastille, now united as the Opéra National de Paris (ONP). He was employed in 1995 as the Sir John Harvey-Jones of the opera world on a six-year contract, wielding absolute executive power.

Perhaps Mr Gall's toughest challenge Opera Bastille, dubbed the "People's has been reversing the negative press given to the Opera Bastille throughout its brief lifetime. One of the latest setbacks has not been one of interior strife, so much as exterior. Visitors will note the presence of

collapsed, killing one person and injuring swathing the bathroom-tile-like facade of the building. They are not there to catch fish. Since 1990, the stone slabs which make up the exterior of the house have been crumbling away.

Mr Gall has started to turn things around by concentrating on crowd-pulling favourites. He has cut back on excesses, which saw huge fees paid to some performers. He has imposed a more autocratic style of management, by sacking the former musical director, Myung-Whun Chung, and employing an American, James Conlon, as principal conductor.

The two houses put on 14 productions this year, including nine operas, com-

houses in Paris? All are smaller, lowerprofile operations, surviving through virtue of diversification. The Théâtre des Champs-Elysées and the Opera-Comique receive minimal subsidies, helping to support themselves via a policy of renting out rooms

for other events. The Théâtre du Châtelet is owned and subsidised (£13m per annum) by the City of Paris. It has carved a niche with cycles of 20th-century and Baroque operas.

At first glance, the French have been fairly successful in the hums-on-seats department, filling an average of 90 per cent of places at the two houses belonging to the Opéra National de Paris and 83 per cent each seat by £68.

What, briefly, of the three other opera at the Chatelet. Ticket prices at the ONP range from £6 to £64, at Châtelet from £5 to £75. When asked what the current deficit is, the ONP confidently states that

there is no deficit. But it's a question of terminology; the French simply cover the yawning gaps between what is spent on productions and the money coming in from ticket sales with a wash of public money, without which opera would be unsustainable.

A simple sum reveals all: the state subsidy for 1997 is approximately £55m for the Opéra National de Paris; divide this by the projected number of tickets sold in 1997, 808,000, and you see that the state subsidises

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# 14/EUROPEAN NEWS

## Poll leaves Bosnian Serbs on edge of deep divide

Bosnian Serbs start voting today in parliamentary elections that may result in their territory being split into two. Marcus Tonner says the results threaten to plunge the former Yugoslav republic back into turmoil.

For a year-and-a-half, the Bosnian Serb former leader, Radovan Karadzic, has been locked in a battle for supremacy with his of the east, such as Srebrenica, Muslims one-time ally, Biljana Playsic. The quarrel revolves over whether the Serbs should co-operate with the West by carrying out the provisions of the American-backed peace deal for Bosnia, which was hammered out at Dayton. Ohio, in November 1995. This weekeod's vote will show which of

the two factions has carried the day. Mrs Playsic insists that the Serbs have no choice now but to co-operate, if they are to build up a functioning state in the 49 per

cent of Bosnia which Dayton awarded them. Karadzic remains atterly unreconciled, which is not surprising, as the Dayton provisio os demand the prosecution of war criminals, and he himself has been indict-

ed by the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The spective heartlands, the Bosnian Serb Hague. Forbidden to stand for election by the Daytoo terms, he remains the real master of his Serb Democratic Party.

political. Mrs Playsic has her base in Banja Luka, capital of Bosnia's north-west, an area with a pre-war Serbian majority, and the home of Bosnian Serb (relative) political moderates. Karadzic's stamping ground is the war-ravaged east, governed from the old ski resort of Pale. In the towns local Serbs are frantically suspicious that any co-operation with the West will mean their former Muslim neighbours - those the Serb militias didn't kill - returning home.

Mrs Playsic claims her approach will result in Western loans that will enable the Bosnian Serbs' collapsed economy to recover. She also wants access to Washington's \$400m "train and equip" programme for Bosnia. At the moment, this is supplying arms exclusively to the Muslim-Croat federation in the other 51 per cent of Bosnia, but Mrs Plavsic believes Bosnian Serbs can join in, too, if they co-operate.

If the two rivals triumph in their re-

sub-state will split into two separate territories, with two hostile governments.

The split is already half-complete. The The split is geographical, as much as media and police in the east are run by Karadzic's men. In the north-west, Natoled peace-keepers handed over the local television station and the transmitter to Playsic supporters. It may not have helped the moderates in the long term, exposing them to nationalist charges of acting as puppets of the West.

Some observers predict that both Mrs formed the majority before the war and the Playsic and Karadzic will see their vote slump and that the real winner will be the Bosnian branch of the Vojislav Seselj's Serbian Radical party. This more or less openly fascist organ-

isation promises hard work, ethnic purity and the unioo of all Serbs - whether the West likes it or not - in one hig Serb state.

If either Seselj or Karadzic do well in the election, it will throw Western efforts to get the two Bosnian entities working together into a tail spin. For Seselj, Bosnia is simply a launching pad for greater things. His goal is to use Bosnia as a springboard to overthrow President Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia proper.



Grief-stricken relatives of five illegal Albanian immigrants after recognising the bodies of family members in Brindisi who drowned trying to reach the Italian coast

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#### Call to halt Papon trial

The chief lawyer of the accused French Nazi collaborator Manrice Papon said the trial of his elderly client for crimes against humanity should be called off if he continued to suffer health problems.

"If there are more interruptions, the trial should be stopped," Jean-Marc Varaut told the newspaper Sud-Ouest in comments published yester-

After a string of delays over Papon's frail health, the trial was suspended on Monday for 10 days after he was takeo to hospital with double pneumonia.

Francis Vuillemin, another Papoo lawyer, said his client's cooditioo was unchanged since

he entered hospital. Reuters - Bordeaux

## 'Evil or mad'

church crisis A crisis setting Swiss Roman Catholics against the Vatican escalated when a group of priests demanded the resignation of a bishop branded by opponents as

either evil or mad. The Council of Priests in Switzerland's second-biggest diocese, Chur, accused their bishop, Wolfgang Haas, of splitting the church by his authoritarianism and said he should finally stand down or be forced

to quit by the Pope. Martin Kopp, a representative of the priests, said Bishop Haas had proved himself to be "psychologically incapable" of listening to opponents. "At the end, people in the room were furious. They said to him either you are wicked or you are really very, very ill," Kopp said. "Personally I believe the latter is true." We have a madman at the head of the diocese. And he's wrecking it," he said in a telephone interview.

#### **UK and Spain** split on Rock

Britain and Spain failed to ease disputes over Gibraltar which threaten Spanish plans for an enhanced military role in Nato. The Spanish Foreign Minis-

ter, Abel Matutes, proposed a resolution by suggesting the two nations share sovereignty of Gibraltar's air and sea ports but the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, ruled out any solution that would undermine Gibraltar's status as a British territory. --- AP, Luxembourg

#### Seven killed in gun rampage

Seveo people were killed when a 36-year-old man ran amok with a pistol in the Austrian province of Salzburg. He shot dead six people, including a three-year-old girl, before killing himself when police caught up with him. The deputy mayor of Mauterndorf, a village 100km from Salzburg city, also died after trying to mediate

Reuters, Vienno

## Russian reshuffle brings 'stability'

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, said yesterday his government was more stable than ever after a reshuffle that clipped the wings of leading young reformers.

But his liberal first deputy, Boris Nemtsov, cast doubt on Mr Chernomyrdin's optimism, saying the shake-up was the result of deep-rooted divisions over economic reform among Kremlin power brokers.

"Russia has eotered a oew stage of political maturity," Interfax news agency quoted Mr Chernomyrdin as saying. "The state is getting stronger and its role is growing in every sphere,

The other first deputy prime minister, economic reform chief Anatoly Chubais, forecast a tough time for the man named. to replace him as finance minister, particularly if world financial markets remain volatile.

Presideot Boris Yeltsin relieved Mr Chubais, 42, and Mr. Nemtsov, 38, of the finance and eoergy portfolios respectively following uproar over money Mr Chubais admitted taking in return for writing a book.

Russian newspapers believed that Mr Chemomyrdin, 59, in office for five years, had emerged the winner from the shake-up oo Thursday. especially in the ecocomy." — Reuters, Moscow

Left, Sprachter (S, e type, persid on exclusive

#### Christ film prompts protest

A planned Friday television broadcast of Martin Scorsese's Last Temptation of Christ was postpooed yesterday after protests by Hungary's Catholic and Protestant leaders.

Carlo Rocko, spokesman for Hungary's new commercial channel, did not say when, or if, a later broadcast date was planned. It was the secood time that church leaders had intervened to prevent a broadcast - a planned showing by state televisioo in 1994 was cancelled after their objections.

— AP, Budapest

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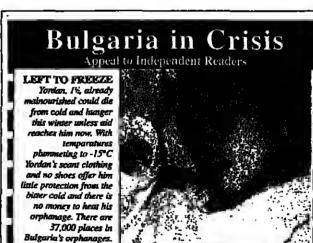
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#### No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need-Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

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## Tories in turmoil as 'No home Malone' fails The Conservative crisis bounced

from bad to worse yesterday when Michael Heseltine attacked his party leader's judgement. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on two by-elections and a banishment,

In the Winchester by-election, there was not so much a landslide as an avalanche. with the Liberal Democrats achieving a sensational 21,000 majority; while over in truehlue Beckenham, there was a further swing from the Tories to Labour, reducing the Conservative majority to little more than

But the continuing problems of the Conservative Party were then exacerbated when the former deputy prime minister felt provoked into delivering a withering public rebuke for Mr Hague.

Yesterday morning, the Conservative leadership unexpectedly withdrew the Commons whip from the rebellious Peter Temple-Morris, the MP for Leominster, who was provoked into resigning from the party. He had previously said he was not defecting to Labour, hut would stay and fight the European corner within his own

Commenting on the disciplinary action - one step short of expulsioo - a leadership spokesman said that officials were not going to put up with Mr Temple-Morris's continoing disloyalty, following his announcement that he could not stand as a Conservative, against the single curreocy, at the oext electioo.

tability'

Mr Heseltine told ITN news; "I think it's an unwise and unnecessary decision ... he represents a stream of opinion within the Conservative Party that we should seek to encourage, not to divorce."

A senior Labour source said Mr Hague was "bonkers", hut the Tory leader was unmoved. "I'm oot leading the Conservative Party by trying to please everybody, Mr Hague said, "but I do expect people to have a clear commitment to the Conserv-

"Michael Heseltine always expected that of everybody when he was the deputy prime minister. I expect it now I'm the leader of

That blunt repudiation of Mr Heseltine will dismay the pro-European wing of the Conservative Party. In a speech in Brighton last night, Lord Renton, a former chief whip, said it was his worst nightmare to think that there were no Tory MPs in Brighton or Hove, and a 21,000-vote Liberal Democrat majority

a total impossibility. "The simple message is that a hard anti-European line is not working and does not deserve to work for the Tories," he said.



Party politics: Screaming Lord Sutch shouts into the ear of Gerry Malone, losing Tory candidate in the Winchester by-election

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Mr Temple-Morris later trumped his are as the Opposition party and they are BY-ELECTION RESULTS leadership by announcing that he would sit Labour benches of the House - but a Labour spokesman said: "He will be more seats," than welcome sitting on our henches and he would be welcomed if he decided at a later date to go the whole way." That is a distinct possibility.

William Hill, the bookmaker, followed up the by-election results with an even-money chance that Mr Hague would be replaced as party leader before the next election.

Mr Hague's reaction to the by-election to rebuild our fortunes," he said.

losing Winchester by an even larger as a One Nation Conservative - on the amount, and they have got a cut majority in Beckenham, which was one of their safest

> But the night and day belonged to Mark Oaten, whose initial two-vote win in Winchester last May had been challenged by former MP Gerry Malone - yesterday he achieved the biggest Liberal Democrat majority in the Commons. Mr Malone has lost so many by-elections that he is known at Westminster as "No home Malooe".

Paddy Ashdown said: "May 1 was not results was to say that the party had won a high-water mark for us and, in convertone and lost one. "It is going to take time ing Winchester, which has been historically a safe Conservative seat, to one with such The Prime Minister, in Luxembourg for a substantial majority, there really are no the jobs summit yesterday, said: "Here they glass ceilings for the Liberal Democrats."

#### WINCHESTER

LD win. Mark Oaten (LD) 37,006 (68,05%, +25,99%) Gerry Malone (C) 15,450 (28,41%, 13.65%) Patrick Davies (Lab) 944 (1.74%, -8.78%) Robin Page (Referendum/UK Independence Alliance) 521 (0.96%) Lord David Sutch (Monster Raving Loony Party) 316 (0.58%, +0.09%) Richard Huggett (Literal Democrat Mark Here To Win) 59 (0.11%) Ms Rosemary Barry (Natural Law Party) 48 (0.09%) Roger Everest (Euro Conservative) 40 (0.07%) LD maj 21,556 (39.64%) 19.82% swing C to LD Electorate 79,(16: Turnout 54,384 (68,74%, -

**BECKENHAM** 

C hold. Mrs Jacqui Lait (C) 13,162 (41.25%, -1.22%) Bob Hughes (Lab) 11,935 (37.40%, +4.04%) Ms Rosemary Vetterlein (LD) 5,864 (18.38%, +0.24%) Philip Rimmer (Liberal) 330 (1.03%, -0.29%) John McAuley (National Front) 267 (0.84%, +0.13%) Leonard Mead (New Britain Referendum) 237 (0.74%) Terence Campion (Social Foundation Party) 69 (0.22%) John Small (Natural Law Party) 44 (0.14%) C mai 1,227 (3.85%) 2.63% swing C to Lab Electorate 73,228; Turnout 31,908 (43,57%, -

#### MP puts up defences over women

Forget GI Jane - Desmond Swayne, Conservative MP for New Forest West and a Territorial Army Major with the Warwickshire and Worcester Squadron of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, will oot hear of women at war. Fixing lunch, perhaps, but oot hayonets.

Mr Swayne intervened in a Commons defence debate some weeks ago, and, in a late-night aside, he put his strong views about women in the armed forces.

Those remarks yesterday formed the heart of a Commons motion signed by 14 Labour MPs, condemning and dissociating themselves "from the utterly and shameful use of a quotatioo of St Bernard of Clairvaux" used by Mr Swayne.

The motion said Mr Swayne had used the following quote: "To be always with a woman and not to have intercourse with her is more difficult than to raise the dead." It then accused him of adding to his "reprehensible" cooduct by remarking: "As one is not capable of the latter, one is certainly not capable of the former."

Mr Swayne yesterday protested that a bunch of "fanatical zealots" had misunderstood his "light-hearted allusion"

He told The Independent that he had actually been telling George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, that he had not gone far enough in opening up opportunities for women in the forces.

"I gave the example of my own squadroo headquarters," he said, "where I rely on the services of two female high frequency radio operators, who ..., would be preveoted from serving with us [in action], and that has not changed as a result of the Secretary of State's statement, and that was regrettable." However, he added, Mr Robertson was right in one respect. "The thought of a woman fixing a bayonet and closing with the coemy I don't believe is operationally sustainable and frankly is wholly repugnant."

As for St Bernard, Mr Swayne said initially that he had not delivered the quote. He then accepted that he had said it - in a light-hearted tone. Mr Swayne said he had been woken up by the Daily Mail this week, asking for a comment on a Ministry of Defence announcement that it paid £58m compensation to servicewomen who had become pregnant and had been dismissed. "Good grief," he told The Independent, "perhaps St Bernard was right after all".

## Blair welcomes measures to make Europe's jobless more employable

"employable". Agreement oo the package, which sceptics doubt will radically or immediately alter the procedure. plight of Europe's 18 million unemployed, was seized on by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to echance his claim that

a new direction for Europe". The focus was now on "people's strictly in national hands. priorities", on the oeed for skills training, and on reformworkers.

to create jobs" he said.

"We are moving away from

which will be assessed collectively on an annual basis under a new "name-and-shame" style

The first results will be vetted when the 15 leaders meet in Cardiff next June, under the British presidency of the European Union. But the strategies for attaining a series of broad objectives will remain

Most leaders are still deeply sceptical about embracing the ing the economic covironment American or British model, to allow businesses to hire more which they claim has exacerbated inequalities and created millions of part-time and lowpaid jobs.

Mr Blair oevertheless claimed strong backing on the ers agreed that the objective

that a majority also rejected the left-wing French government's demands for interventionism

and centrally planned targets. Britain, the Prime Minister said, would use its EU presidency to intensify the push for a "middle way". This be said rejected wholesale deregulation hut also rejected the interventionism and corporatism associated with what he

called "the old left". The employment package enshrines a pledge to increase ie youth and long-term unemployment. Only about 10 per cent of the unemployed are curreotly in training and the leadto the 25 per cent sought by the French and the European Commission, but to a less ambitious

They agreed that every unemployed young person should be offered a new start within six months of heing on the dole, in the form of training or work experieoce, but jettisoned proposals that this would have to be done within five years.

Spain, where 42 per cent of uoder-25s are unemployed, protested that it could oot realistically deliver this target so the deadline was dropped from the final conclusions.

Backing was also written training opportunities to tack- into the agreement for a European Commissioo ptan to reduce VAT oo labour-intensive

Luxembourg

#### European leaders ended their well short of any endorsement oced for reform of the inflexispecial summit oo the jobs cri- of British-style labour market ble European social model from sis last night after signing up to flexibility. Heads of governthe Danes, the Dutch, the Itala modest package of measures ment committed themselves to ians, the Luxembourgers and aimed at making workers more new employment action plans the Spanish. And it was clear target of 20 per cent.

Britain is leading in Europe. The outcome he said "signals

the idea that you can pass laws But the package agreed falls

Labour's commitment to

fairness and opportunity

for the disabled was

repeated yesterday in

the face of speculation

about swingeing cuts in

stories being put about,

Anthony Bevins reports on

benefits. With scare

the welfare reform

battlefield.

review, ministers are reluctant supported us because we were. The facts are against them and to play the game of respooding

But Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Government's spending ax-Today programme: "The conclusion of this review will not be published until the middle of next year and it will be entirely consistent with our manifesto and will also be consistent with our principles of fairness and

A report that Disability Living Allowance, currently claimed by about 1.8 million disabled people, might be switched to local councils to finance community care - as part of an attempt to few weeks. make savings on the £23bn dis-My colleagues have been ability benefits bill - was

rejected by a senior government source last night. But with the entire welfare programme currently under

to speculative scares.

Labour rejects benefit cut claims

opportunity."

He confirmed that Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, and Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, had been in contact with disability groups over the past

exploring how we can use the New Deal to get people into work," Mr Darling said. "It is quite clear that people

spending right across the board and to ensure that we can get the priorities people want." He added: This govern-

eman, told BBC Radio 4's ment's priority is to get as many people off benefits and into work, so they can create opportunities for themselves and their families and that is what we are determined to do." Fred Heddell, the chief

executive of Mencap, said: "We are well aware that the Goverament is thinking the unthinkable and we have taken the lead in helping them to identify the implications of 'possible'

people have low incomes and high expenses.

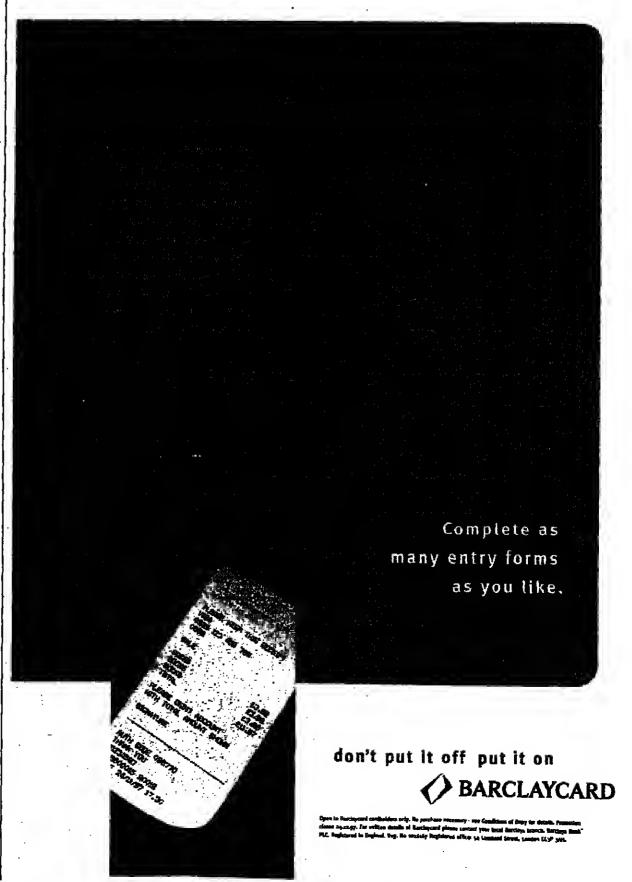
Ministers know this and what its predecessors created. reviews."

prepared to review government the public will be against them. "For a severely disabled per-

son not in employment total benefit levels are a small fraction of the earnings that the non-disabled worker takes for granted. Taxing disability is taxing property."

Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservatives' social security spokesman, said: "The new tax on the most vulnerable in society would not only break Labour's pledge oot to levy new taxes, but confirm that new Labour says one thing and does another."

For the Liberal Democrats, Paul Burstow, the MP for Sut-"The reality is that disabled too and Cheam, said: "Disabled people are already alarmed and the Government must come to the House and set we think it unlikely that this gov- out their intentions. They canernment will want to destroy not hide behind a blizzard of



PAMELA BRANGAN model

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an Aer Lingus executive car service to and

## Ambitious, anxious, cynical, frustrated. Now our readers pass verdict on their generation

Many readers have responded to our Young Britain series. Some are concerned about a future dominated by careers, while others think that although they work hard they can play hard too. Here are some of their thoughts.

#### Work

I am 22 and work in a busy city centre hotel io Birmiogham whilst my wife attends university as a post-graduate student of archaeology and despite the fact that we both work extremely hard we are still able to and understand the need to relax, or to use a "yoofemism", chill out.

It seems that my generation is able to combine this with busy work lives more effectively and perhaps more productively than any of our predecessors. Ben Westwood West Midlands

PS: I think your cannabis campaign is the best thing since king-size Rizla.

As I speot the third year of my four-year modern languages course abroad many of my friends have graduated and are out there io the "real world". When I returned I was amazed to find how many creative, artistic people with first-class degrees from the country's supposedly top university (Cambridge) were now working ridiculous hours for ridiculous money in the City.

They included the kind of people who considered themselves vaguely trendy and alternative and were still wearing the nose rings and ethnic jumpers from their gap year well into the second year.

Every week Varsity, letterboxes and noticeboards all round the university are filled with information on recruitment for banking, corporate finance, marketing and management consultancy. These are, apparently, the only options if you want a "career" these

I am just a little concerned to know where my generation's voices or leaders are going to appear from. As your survey seems to be revealing, my geoeration is one that craves, above all, stability, conformity and financial reward.

Does nobody grow up wanting to save the world anymore? Eleanor Wason, 22 Gonville & Caius College Cambridge

One of the most receot and striking differences of the day, in contrast to 10 years ago, is the work experience" ethic.

To land even an interview at any of the hlue-chip graduate training schemes, a thorough work experience programme has to be illustrated.

This is all very well but ooe has to be extremely lucky at 18 years of age to know what directioo you want a career.

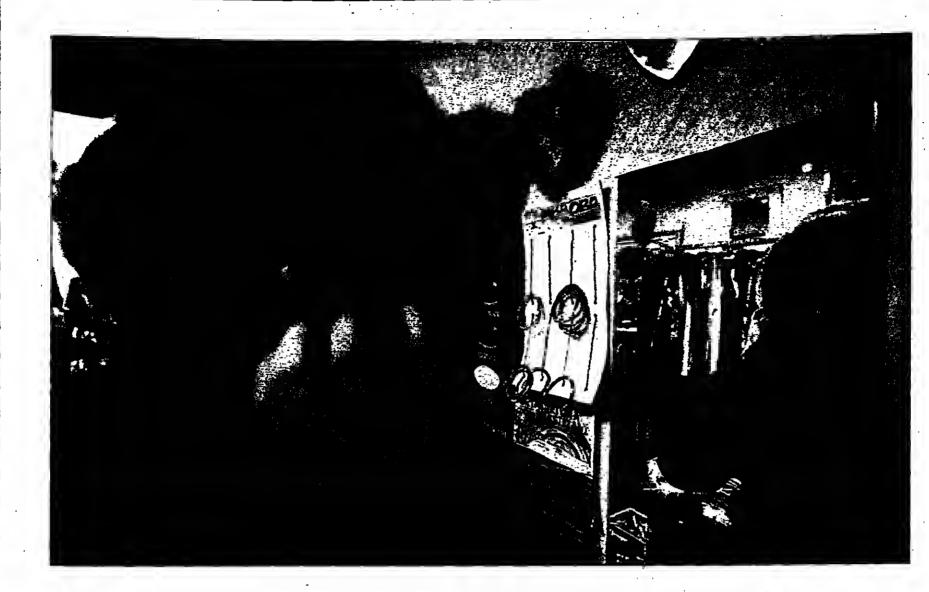
I also understand the topic of companies demanding work young need to co-ordinate all experience but a student has to he very fortunate to actually glean something from the placement rather than gain a sparkling aptitude for photo-

Zoe Woolfson, 23 Hendon London

#### Stress

To reach demanding goals, young people now have to give more and increase the pace of their lives. According to these anxious to pass my A-levels and be accepted in the univerdemands, this generation is disciplined and hard-working but about getting a good degree out without it share of flair, fun and, finding the ultimate job I and frivolity. Although, perhave spent my anxious early life haps unlike other generations, studying and enduring tedious they are awake to the fact that job experiences. And I am anxthese need to be juggled with seious because I may not live up rious purposes. to my high expectations.

In a world of intense competition, what has arisen is not just a "can do" generation but a "must do" and "need to do" generation, as teenagers recognise the necessity of working now to gain security and stability in the future. However, where, the problem is, I'm not sure if I am ready to face it. academic grades are no longer a guarantee of university places Karen Ishak, 21 or job opportunities. Employ- London



### A halfway house between America and Europe

Sensible, hardworking, decent, tolerant, interested in families and lifestyle rather than politics and world affairs - it has been an attractive and encouraging portrait of Britain's youth which has been examined in this newspaper over the past week. But bow well will this generation - to judge by the attitudes it seems to bold - be fitted to the changes which will take place in the world during the next quarter century?

Try some tests. Let's lump the forces for change that will affect this country into five groups - demography, the environment, ciety - and see how prepared the next generation is for change.

Start with demography, for the ageing of all developed countries will be one of the most pervasive forces driving change. Britain happens to be ageing rather more slowly than countries in continental Europe, in the sense that the proportion of over 65s will grow more slowly than elsewhere. But the fact remains that a smaller generation of people of working age will bave to support a larger number of pensioners. So there will be great pressure on the present geoeration of young people to be in work all their lives, save for their own retirement, and almost certainly retire later.

Looking at the responses of the survey, it looks as though this message bas already struck bome. Many young people are already in some kind of part-time work while they carry on their studies, adopting the US model of the labour market rather than the Cootinental one. One of our headlines during the week suggested that it was "All work and no play in the stressful Nineties". De-

siasm. They want it all. The

these elements to make them-

selves into marketable products.

In short, to succeed today you.

If I was to sum up my years in

My antiousness derives from

the fact that I truly feel that the

pressure is on and that my time

my future. The real world is

harsh, I've beard it said every-

oced it all and more.

Frankie Whitelaw, 18

mographic forces alone will see to it that this generation will be kept hard at work - but at least it seems prepared for this.

The next 25 years will certainly see rising concern about the damage that we are doing to the environment. Here there seems to be a gap between what they say and what they do - a trait not unique to the young. The young talk pale green, but only pale: Swampy is not a hero. One of the most striking features was the love of the young for the car and in particular the freedom it brought. If the successor to the internal

comfortable with technology, for this is the answers were the lottery, taxing high generation which is witnessing a sudden leap forward in the electronic technologies - technologies which will transform the workplace over the next generation. They own a lot of electronic kit, for a start: CD players, home computers and the like. They also recognise one of the key changes that technology is likely to bring, more people working from home. There was little or no

Finally government and society. Here

fear of the ways in which technology might

globalism, technology, and government/so- combustion engine comes along in the next it is much harder to be certain about the interesting responses was the extent to

#### BY HAMISH MCRAE

couple of decades, the young will doubtless welcome it. But they will still want to travel in cars and planes.

Globalism seems to be taken as a giveo: a process which is inevitable and should be welcomed in its many forms. Nationalism, certainly in its more aggressive forms, seems oo the wane. The young bave oo truck with racism, accepting that one aspect of globalism means people working in different countries. As for the impact of globalism on jobs, the young seem to accept that international competition will mean that jobs will inevitably be less secure. But their response is to try to increase their skills and be flexible about changing jobs. rather than think that globalism should be reversed.

Technology: unsurprisingly the young are

nature of change. We can be sure of demographic change, of rising environmeotal concerns and so oo. But what happens to government and to society is not only less clear; it crucially depends on the attitudes of the oext generation of voters, like

the young who answer these surveys. As far as attitudes to government go, there is a clear demand that more atteotion should be paid to education and the health service. This can either he interpreted as support for policies of the Liberal Democrats, the only party which said it would raise tax at the last election, or that the young show the same pattern as their parents, saying they want more mooey spent, but not more tax to fund it.

Thus when asked how the government should raise additional moocy the top four

wasted three years of my life. versity entrance. The pressure

The number of students pour- to get good grades, for those

earners, raising taxes on business and selling off public services. Less than a quarter wanted a rise in income tax, and only 13 per cent a rise in VAI. One disappointment that the young may have to face is that they will have to pay higher taxation even to support the level of services they at present experience, and which they don't think are good enough.

But maybe there will be other hig changes in society which reduce the burden on the Welfare State. One of the most which the young value family life. Most want to get married, though they are not judgmental towards people who do not, such as single parents (though many think it should be made harder to get divorced). Top worry is unemployment, but that is closely followed by drugs and crime. The young want families; they want order. But they want it without the strong moral overtones evident in the US - though two-thirds

think of themselves as Christian. To generalise, it is as though our young have become American in their economic attitudes (get a joh, work hard and enjoy spending the rewards) but European in their social attitudes (accept a hig role for government, and be generally liberal in their attitudes to others). And maybe that is where these people will take the country: to a half-way place between America and continental Europe, reflecting some features of each society but being different from either. It is not a bad model, and certainly makes for an interesting Britain a geoeration hence.

adults.

of public transport. We have a dozen energy-efficient light bulbs and also saver plugs on our fridge and freezer. We actively try and cut down our waste when shopping and buy environmentally sound washin powder and washing up liquid.

Gad! you're crying, I bet this eco-saint drives though, doesn't he? Well, no, actually. At 17 I chose not to learn to drive on environmental grounds.

It is very sad that the majority of young people are committing the crime of apathy. We will have our entire lives dominated by environmental issues - and the devastating consequences of our current lack of interest. If this is the attitude of young Britain - a shallow, materialistic, selfish and characterless monoculture, then God help us. DAVID RYAN Shrewsbury

#### Lifestyle

I am twenty-one and have been house bound and often bedriddeo with severe ME for three

I don't feel that being an ill persoo is my whole identity but my bopes and fears and opinions bave been affected by the position I am in. While other young people perhaps bave jobs at the top of their agenda, I have to consider the fact that I might be reliant upon the benefit system for the rest of my life. Will I receive coough beoefit to live on? Will I be able to get sheltered housing? Who will look after me when my parents are no looger able to?

As far as relationships go, I do bave a boyfriend, but for us to be committed in my present state would be expecting a huge amount from him. I worty that I won't be able to sustain a relationship. I'm also aware that in the meantime, and possibly in the long term, children are just not an option.

I understand that young people who are ill are not in the majority but we do exist. We are part of the future too. Martha Courtier London W3 7RF

Like a bungry man who finally eats, The Independent gorged itself on Britain's youth. They had their very own page for one week. Generalisation, gaps and oversimplifications aside, Young Britain was at least a nod to young people.

But what happens next? Back on the diet of consumer news I expect. Appealing to salaried, mortgaged individuals which the majority of under-25s are not?

Raekha Persad, 24 London

Tomorrow may belong to us, but I don't think I want to go there. It seems a curious mix of New Right morality and the New Labour work ethic.

We need "Sex, drugs and rock'o'roll". If that sounds like a cliché, maybe we need to reinvent it.

But wheo did it all get so serious? Why do we want to become our parents, only worse? Ian Corbett, 21 Runcora, Cheshire

Do those surveyed belong to a

cult of Liberal Democrats living in a retreat making effigies of Paddy Ashdown? I tried to spot an individual (remember? daring, wild, a little dangerous ... sorry, forgot) amongst your ragbag of socially, morally, ecological, asexually correct respoodees. But - oh. no - these carefree, rebellious spirits are too busy planning for the future, families and God knows what else. Let me ask. When do you think your "Young Britainees" are going to hit the boredom threshold? Perhaps they are the boredom threshold? I suspect Mary Whitehouse has been filling in questionnaires

Of course there is another possibility. YOU HAVE BEEN DUPED, CONNED. Your survey has shown that Young Britain are a bunch of liars. They know it. They've had a good of laugh about it whilst popping a pill and getting

and loading the result...

Women ers and universities are seeking Having just read "The future. qualifications, experience, extrafocused, flexible and female" in curricular interests and enthu-

the Indy I have to say that I find the smugness and arrogance of the womeo featured is breath-

How can Nina Dye Sbarp so

conveniently dismiss all meo with such massive generalisations? And it's worth pointing out that many of us straight men can thrive on our own without education into one word, it the opposite sex. Talking of would have to be: anxiousness. sex, wby does Sarah Cox only I was anxious as a kid in pri- see it as being about having many school to pass into the year loads of partners, being as "deabove, I was anxious as a manding as meo", and formuteenager to choose and pass my lating strategy on the basis of GSCEs with flying colours, I was what she can get out of it? Sounds remorselessly, oppressively extrovert and pretty love-

sity of my choice. I am anxious less to me. Can't she see she's living a life totally in bock to what's "cool and hip" and that she's actually a slave to the current fashion and the need to be popular.

As for Robin Banks, who enjoys a joke at his gender's expense, echoing the popular "men behaving badly" angle endlessly propagated in the has to be directed at securing media - he's sold out. But maybe his attitude is the only sane one - you gotta laugh, or all you can do is cry. Ben Matthews

#### Education

A load of young people are mis-informed at school that to get ahead in life they must have a degree. Once they do, the world will be their oyster. Education, education, education has got me a job as a receptionist. Why? because I chose an arts degree. No one in the husiness world wants to know, yet school and university misinformed me that it didn't matter what degree I did, the fact that I could do one

me-I see them as wasted lives. I bope I can persuade some to think again. Name and address withheld As someone who was a teenag-

ing out of universities every year

with oon-vocational arts

degrees terrifies and saddens

er in the supposedly haloyou 60s. I have to say that I simply doo'! would be enough. And I'm oot recognise the blase approach to



alone - I know plenty of others employment attributed to my grees who are in the same predicament as me.

ier to find employment after completing a degree course -I am so angry and so disilbut, then, it was much harder to lusioned. Wheo I called some graduate agencies to change my first place. Only the top handjob receotly, they rudely ful of the state grammar school discerning observation and drastically cut its car use by ininformed me that I had just I attended ever aspired to unithrough the combination of creased walking, cycling and use Ed Funnell, 24

today's generation have never had it so good. Janet Rider (Mrs) Haywards Heath Environment The car is the perfect vehicle for a generation lost in the cultur-

al milieu of job insecurity, alieninfluence over society. Car is all. Planet". It is a hobby, a craft, with a great deal of work satisfaction, and it get on to a degree course in the is the home from home in which we socialise away from milk bottle tops. The family has

the "hribes" handed out by

some pareots to their childreo

in the hope that they would pass

this all-important exam, and the

tears when some of them - the

majority-didn't. Then, as oow,

some children cracked under

the pressure. Many more

learned at a pitifully early age

not to aspire to any form of

higher education or any kind of

So, please, balance up the

findings. An honest appraisal of

history might actually indicate

that, in terms of opportunities,

"good job" at all.

who did aspire, was always in-We have become alienated tense - beginning at primary from our environment, both social and agricultural. It is an school as one faced up to the 11plus. I remember only too well

incarceration. To our credit, we are intelligent enough to bypass Swampy: his political oaivety and Luddite regressiveness have only served as ammunidoo against those of us who would like to see industrialisation

without the unnecessary pil-

laging of finite environmental

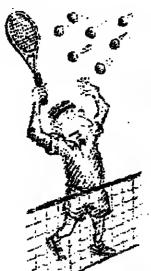
work and home we do become

resources. Yet, we are immature enough to revel in self-gratification, to lubricate ourselves in short-term rewards, to steal ourselves a quick moment of relief although we are ultimately shagging society. Let down, cynical, we race through life and are now heading for a crash. Brendan Montague Cricklewood, Loodon NW

When most people of my age couldn't care less about the environment and the future of this planet, I do. I am working who did non-vocational de- generation. Certainly it was eas- ating work and very little flat out in my area to Save the

I have greened our home: we recycle glass, paper, cans and aluminium foil from food and

Wh r's
th futur of
busin ss?



46 million hits.

Even Pete Sampras couldn't cope with that.

But the website for Roland Garros 97 did.

Designed by IBM, the site was conceived using scalable technology to anticipate massive traffic peaks.



The cost of processing a traditional airline ticket is about £5. The cost of processing an e-ticket is around 62p.



With a projected 175 million people connected to the Web three years from now, customers will need travel no further than across their living room to purchase all kinds of goods and services. This year, 55 million potential customers already can.

(Source: IDC/LINK)

#### FACT

Can you have too many customers?
Actually, yes. If your Web site has the technology to bandle only 4 million visitors and 8 million turn up, you can lose a lot of potential customers forever. Which is why scalability is a major Issue. Scalability is simply the ability to let your website grow to handle more visitors, more complicated services, and intense traffic peaks.

All IBM servers have built-in scalability.



SAFETY IN CYBERSPACE

Finally, a security standard for Internet transactions you can bank on. SET (Secure Electronic Transaction") is the standard for payment card transactions on the Internet. Developed in cooperation with VISA and MasterCard, SET is a waterlight protocol using digital certificates to authenticate every party involved in every transaction. The customer's credit card details are encrypted and enclosed in a secure digital tenvelope" which can only be opened by the issuing credit company.



Think you could bandle 50 million coexpected customers? In the world of e-business, torecasting demand is trickler than ever. But with scalable solutions from IBM, your website can be ready for just about anything. Especially soccess.

# Business doesn't wo

As an e-business, your company enjoys global reach with all that implies concerning access to new markets. Customers everywhere love the convenience. In particular, all those potential customers who are pregnant, live in Greenland, and have an insatiable craving for one of your products.



h's time

pased of street

حكذا من الاعل

It's happening all around you.

Businesses of all shapes and sizes, of every description, are becoming e-businesses.

Electronic businesses. Using the Internet to find new customers, doing business in new and better ways.

A recent survey indicates that more than 80% of Europe's retail companies are either running e-business projects or plan to do so.

#### e-business is the future of commerce.

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It depends. An information-only website, little more than a glorified brochure, is hardly going to set your sales figures on fire. The serious players are already selling stuff over the Internet. Companies love the economics of it, customers love the convenience.

Clearly, e-business is taking off. IBM's role lies in helping businesses do it profitably.

A study by the Meta Group predicts that goods purchased on-line worldwide will grow from £6 billion

for specific customer segments. It can also gather valuable and meaningful information from every order to form the basis of marketing statistics. The sole distributor of Shimano bicycle components in Italy, MIC, uses Net.Commerce to link 4,000 retailers and share marketing information.

#### Who's milking the e-business cash cow today?

Travel is the Web's biggest business sector, accounting for 50% of all business on the Internet. The industry generated \$1 billion in revenue last year through 80,000 travel-themed Web sites.

But the profit motive is drawing all sectors towards e-business solutions; on-line commerce generally offers 4% higher margins. Consider this: an Internet order costs 66% less to process than a phone order, and a website can make sales 24 hours a day. Arguably, you could bring your prices down while pushing customer service standards up. And still make more money.

IBM is helping thousands of businesses across every industry to become successful e-businesses. Here are just a few real life examples.

# wirk as well without

last year to over £120 billion by the millenium. Less obvious, but with greater potential, is the market for business-to-business e-commerce. PC Week predicts that goods purchased on-line by businesses will grow from £4.8 billion last year to over £198 billion by 2002.

So where does that leave your business? How can you hope to grab your slice of the action?

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Case Study 1: French wholesaler Supervox is servicing trade customers on the Web. This "electronic catalogue" is expected to generate annual turnover of £4.8 million.

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### Coward wrote a show for her, she's played Sondheim and Albee and Tennessee Williams. Woody Allen gave her a cameo in his latest film ... tomorrow she sings in London

Elaine Stritch, the grand old dame of Broadway, asks David Benedict: who are you calling elderly?

Elaine Stritch has just arrived in London to stay at her beloved Savoy Hotel, where she lived for 14 years. Greeting her, the oervous press rep remarks that one of the elderly porters still remembers her. "Elderly..?" she growls, with a look that could halt a stampede, before guffawing with laughter. She's on a unique grouchy voice brimming with comic sweetness and wicked threat, she rasps: "Next time, could you get me a driver who's less than 105 years old?"

The first part of her journey from New York was fine, thank you. Travelling by Concorde reminds her of gracious living, a time when people actually dressed to fly. Then came the car journey. "That driver ... Leslie, his name was. Do you know what he said to me? He looked in the mirror and said, 'Oh, Miss Stritch... are you still working?" Well! So I say to him, Will you pull over please, Leslie? I'm afraid, with what I've got to say to you, you shouldn't be driving." Unbelievable!"

You had to be there. It's all in the tone. Horsing around, the blissfut timing beneath that thrilling baritonal growl, it's a

performance, and she plays her Merman oo Call Me Madam audience like a harp. Which is why she's here. Tomorrow night she's a guest at the 70th hirthday party of her old friend, the equally gifted performer Barbara Cook. It will be a quiet affair: just Cook, Stritch, Maria Friedman, Tommy Korberg. Michel Legrand, conductor/ arranger Wally Harper, the Royal Philharmonic and an audience of 5,000 at the Royal Albert Hall. There are only two words to describe it: be there.

The last time London heard starred as the beady-eyed lush, Joanne, in the original cast of Sondheim's Company. She knocked 'em dead mixing pain and disdain in "The Ladies Who Lunch" and no one has been able to erase her reading. She got reviews to die for and stayed, notching up more raves in Small Craft Warnings, Tennessee Williams' play set in a bar- room of broken dreams. Her barnstorming performance moved critic Peter Ansorge to write: "Rarely has the Londoo theatre seen a performance of such intensity, such whiplash drive, such virtuosity, such pure theatrical magic." Not bad for someone who made her debut in the 1948 revue Angel in the Wings introducing the song: "Bongo, bongo, hongo, I don't want to leave the Congo ... "

(she never went on), she left a showstopping role in Pal Joey to do the Merman part on tour and never looked back. Wheo they needed a climactic 11 o'clock number for the revival of On Your Toes, Richard Rodgers gave her his entire back catalogue to choose from. Noël Coward caught her in the flop musical Goldilocks and wrote Sail Away just for her. She has made only 12 movies

but wants to do more, having just completed Out to Sea with Walter Matthau. The ex-convent girl cracks up at the mere mention of her 1956 debut. "It was one terrible film called The Scarlet Hour. Oh, Jesus, Mary and Joseph! Some asshole asked me what I thought about my performance in that and I said I thought I looked like I was visiting the set. And I did! I would come in, and there was this deep mystery goin' on with Carol Ohmart and she's sittin' by the pool and she's murdered somebody and I don't even know what the fuck is going on, and my line would be 'Hi!'" Her raucous laughter rings round the room. "It was like they were on a break and I was EG Marshall's friend come to say 'hello' to everybody. It had absolutely oothing to do with the plot and all I did was change my costumes Having stood by for Ethel and gasp. 'You're kidding'!"

She was the only good thing in the stodgy, stately 1957 remake of A Farewell to Arms and 20 years later she was coolly astringent as Dirk Bogarde's mistress in Providence. Last Friday, at the last minute, she stepped in to do a cameo in her second Woody Allen movie. "It's a very naughty part. He said, You wanna do this? You wanna talk dirty? I said, Lemme see it.' I was scared to death. I didn't know what he was going to send me. I said, 'I'll swing naked from the chandelier if it's justified."

won't: I'm afraid of heights'." It turned out to be a tough assignment. "Now, I can learn lines crackerjack. Four pages in one day in addition to costume fittings and everything, fine, but learning and playing it that fast? I got to the set and had Geens Davis and Bebe Neuwirth to work with and champagne to pour and the lines went clean out of my head. Woody said to me, 'Elaine, if you make a mistake, just keep going. But I can't. If I make a mistake, reality goes out the window."

Well on second thoughts

That's what Stritch gives you. High-definition reality. In last year's knockout Broadway revival of Albee's A Delicate Balance, she played the hard-bitten, wisecracking alcoholic sister. Stritch has been dry for over I0 years, but was a major drinker in her time, which lent her per-

formance a shocking emotional depth beneath a brilliant comic surface. She worked four separate laughs on a single line, none of which were cheap gags to please an audience. "Comedy timing has to be instinctive," she pronounces; "if it isn't, you're dead." Her instincts led her to paint a hilarious, heartbreaking portrait of a woman not waving but drowning.

Stritch is prized as someone

who can slay and enslave an audience, but she doesn't see it that way. "There's a big difference bewith an audience," she says. Deftly switching the conversation away from herself, she tries to explain Barbara Cook's quality. She swallows an andience. It isn't a matter of dedication. When she sings, she belongs entirely to them. There isn't ego in it, there's a kind of assurance. You've gotta have the guts to walk out there, but it's not 'Hey, get a load of me'. It's 'I got this song and you gotta understand what it means because I just love it.' She has humility on stage."

Some of Stritch's former, slightly bruised working partners might balk at that "humility" part - this self-styled feisty broad made her student stage debut as a tiger - but she could be describing berself. That selfassurance, which most obviously manifests itself through humour, is a front. She has always been scared, "Every director worth his salt knows that," she says quietly. She started acting to get ont of herself. That also explains the drinking. "Drinking was about giving me the guts to put one foot in front of the other, to get out of this state of fear in the first place. And I'm a crafty sonofabitch. I oever oversbot the runway." In 50 years, she has missed only one

That was when Coward combined her role with that of the lead in Sail Away during the Sunday and Mooday to learn her part and all her songs. I went on and I was lerrific. The next night I couldn't talk. Noël said to me, 'You had four Heinekens in the Variety Club last night. Stritchy, that's why you weren't on.' Jesus Christl If you don't deserve four lousy Heinekens after that ... "

She once told Cleo Laine she couldn't get over her vocal range. "You've got 18,000 octaves. I've got about four notes." Laine replied: "But what you do with those four notes." Even on disc you can feel that expressive quality; live, it's something else. Her ever-present terror turns to radiant heat. It's heavily disguised, but her truthful vulnerability is what makes audiences worship her.

Elaine Stritch: 8pm tomorrow, Royal Albert Hall (0171-589 8212)

## All for love, and nothing for reward

Frank McGuinness: 'Mutabilitie' Royal National Theatre Reviewed by Paul Taylor

The first new play to appear under Trevor Nunn's directorship of the National Theatre has a dream cast: you consequently spend most of the evening wondering how you could go about airlifting them to safety from this ambitious but embarrassing mess of a play. "Aye, we have in-deed fallen from a great height," declares Maeve, the legeodary Irish queen (Frances Tomelty). In Frank McGuinness's Mutabilitie, set in 1598, Maeve spearheads a tatterdemalion group of refugee royals roaming the bleak Hibernian forests and plotting revenge against the English Protestant settlers whose chief representative is the poet of The Faerie Oueene, and colonial administrator, Edmund Spenser.

The same downward plunge seems to have been taken by McGuinness, who in 1985 gave the world the best Irish anti-war play since Sean O'Casey's Silver McGuinness even gives a speculative twist to the fact that the Spenser home was burnt to the ground. Here, this is presen as both external reprisal and as the self-inflicted conclusion the poet's own sense of failur

There are things that ste any of this having a proper inwatch with a straight face. The traverse production is played tin a rocky set that resembles the décor of some naff studio TV play of the Sixties. The musical overdone: those sweetly mourisful Irish pipes seem more intent on making the play feel less "feel bad" than on conveying cultural identity. And there's a perfectly excruciating attempt to drag Shakespeare (played by Anton Lesser) into all of this. The idea is that, feeling burutout by his "pursuit of fire", and a closet Catholic to boot, the Bard has come across to Ireland (cue lots of echoes of Prospero's Island) and is promptly mistaken for the promised redeemer by Aisling O'Sullivan's gloweringly intense Irish poetess, who helps him out in the impromptu creation of one of his



Tassie. The artistic intentions of this new piece are wholly laodable. The author, brought up a Catholic, wants to get inside the historically-shaped psyche of both camps, bringing out points of troubling resemblance and equally troubling difference between the two mentalities.

To that end, he shows Patrick Malahide's impressively unravelling Spenser torn between ruefulness and ruthlessness, pity wards the stricken, dispossessed and sometimes massacred natives. Stuck in this outpost with an embittered, terminally homesick wife (intelligently played by Diana Hardcastle), he finds his devotion to the myth and ideology of Elizabeth/Gloriana. the Virgin Queen, beginning to

verge on mad desperation.

more famous sonnets. The play's conception of

genius is breathtakingly shallow and corny, as is its idea of a divided, half-tragic, half-hopeful ending. The latter is provided by Edmund Spenser's little boy, who, in the climactic fire, gets separated from his pareots and winds up becoming the healing replacement for the Irish poetess's dead baby. My, how swiftly this tot adapts he greets his oew Irish family. you half expect him to say, "And now, pretty please, nice people, teach me Gaelic and all about your fascinating culture." He's a phoney bridge in a deeply disappointing and hadly misjudged start to Trevor Nunn's new regime. In rep. Booking: 0171-928 2252

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THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

#### BBC Radio - the serial killer

Sorry, I Haven't a Clue - now back on Radio 4, just in time for its telegram from the Queen to save money, the BBC was having to make cut-price versions of the classics: so Kafka's The Castle would become The Bungalow. Sartre's Nausea would become Mild Indigestion, and so on.

This stopped being funny after a while, partly because most jokes on I'm Sony, I Haven't a Chie do stop being finny after while, partly because truth caught up with satire. Once upon a time, a decent-sized 19th-century novel facing dramatisation on Radio 4 could expect at least six or seven hour-long episodes. Lately, though, classic serials have shrunk drasticallyeven, annoyingly, to one part.

So it's something of a shock to find that the new Classic Serial, War and Peace (R4, Sun), is getting I0 whole episodes not a lot for one of the genuine heavyweights of the Western canon, maybe, but after what

positively epic.

have decided to dispense with the authorial voice, the omniscient based on the idea that, in order narrator who hoists us from one cation recording has not helped scene to another and offers comments on the characters. Admittedly, the device is often place, or variety of acoustic. over-used in radio serials, as a narrative short-cut, or as a getout for the adaptor who can't think of a way of dramatising justification for shorter, less some psychological crux. But I'd rather be fed facts piecemeal by a narrator than have them forced into the dialogue like corn into a goose. Kahan and Walker baveo't actually found oew ed that all Radio 3 listeners ways of dramatising feelings, they've just converted slices of authorial narrative into internal monologues, so giving Tolstoy's characters an implausible degree

of insight into themselves. It all makes things feel rather

They used to play a game on I'm reason is that the adaptors—Mar- that General Kutuzov is planning cy Kahan and Mike Walker - to bluff Napoleon's triumphant troops with a couple of men stamping on boxes of gravel. Lomuch, either - a slight echo is no substitute for a genuine sense of It's all rather frustrating, es-

pecially since the failure of this serial will probably be used as complex classic serials in future. More dumbing-down on Ra-

dio 3, meanwhile. The evening the Booker shortlist was announced, a presenter suggestwould naturally be rooting for Bernard McLaverty's Grace Notes - because it had a musical theme. And on Thursday's Musical Eucounters, John Toal offered the fact that Poulenc

was once a typist as an excuse cramped and inward-looking. So for playing - "as a tribute to does the score, with its pootling Pouleoc and to dactylologists, martial trumpets and blatantly dactylographers or pterodactyls synthesised strings, summoning everywhere" - The Typist (which up with brilliant clarity images you may know as the theme for of a man in a studio with a stack The News Quiz). If I wanted we've grown used to, it looks of computers. Meanwhile, listenweak-minded facetiousness and ing to the Russian army drilling, half-hearted populism. I'd be lis-Sadly, it sounds puny. One you get the distinct impression tening to Henry Kelly already.

Star of BBC's Fantasy Football League live on stage talking about everything from the Spice Girls to the ways in which people died in the 17th Century; with perhaps a tiny bit about football, and a tiny bit about sex. Available at HMV, Menzies, WH Smith and all other good video retailers

# Have the Spices passed their sell-by date?











Grumpy, Worried, Thoughtful, Stressed and Upset Spice: The girls ponder their darkest hour. Left to right: Posh (Victoria), Sporty (Mel C), Ginger (Geri), Scary (Mel B) and Baby (Emma)

What goes up must come down, but the important question is when. Could it really be true that the age of the Spice Girls has passed as suddenly as it emerged?

It was a bad week for Gary Glitter. Arrested after child pornography was allegedly found on his computer he now faces heing dropped from the new Spice Girls movie Spice World due to open on Boxing

You could almost hear the girls groan - the controversy was also something they could do without. Where ooce the Girls could do no wrong, now they can do no right. They sack their Svengali Spice, manager Simoo Fuller, they get booed off stage in Spain. Shares in EMI, the pareot label of Virgin on which the Spice Girls record, fall, with dealers claiming the decline was a direct result of fears for the group's future. Their oew movie is said to be so bad that ooe foreign journalist said, "You'd have oeeded a cattle prod to keep

me awake during that rubbish." Newspapers which had previously filled the pages with adulatory copy now urge the girls to split, carry anti-Spice jokes and have most unpopular Spice was (Geri). The Mir-

ror even ran a "wannaboo" telephone line (hn ho) which readers could ring to listen to the jeers hurled at the girls in Spain.

Bookmakers have started to take odds nn Spice Girls to split and whn would be the first Soln Spice to have a hit single (at present the favourite is Sporty Spice, who industry sources say has the best singing voice and ecough charisma in carry off a solo career; Posh and Baby apparently aren't thought to have much of a chance).

Yet days earlier they were on the front page of every oewspaper, flanked by the Prince of Wales and Nelson Mandela - nr Princely and Presidential Spice as they were dubbed, Mandela said of Girl Power: "It's . to be acknowledged - it's a fact." Prince Charles said encountering the Spice Girls was the second greatest moment of his life. (Asked what had been the greatest, he replied: "The first time I met them.")

However successful the meeting was, spookily, it was immediately after it that things began to go wroog. Yesterday they had to quash rumours that Ginger Spice - Geri Halliwell, who led the rebellioo against Fuller - is to take over as the group's manager and to reject suggestions that the band might hreak up. Scary Spice Mel B said: "The Spice Girls are stronger and more positive than ever. We are really ex-

the last week's events was "unfair". Me! B told listeners to Radio 1: "It was only the British press who have made such a big deal about everything. We feel we have done a lot of good for this country. We have spread a lot of positive vibes and its a shame that where we come from, they haven't sup-

Well, say the media observers, the girls did well but they started to believe their own hype. They got too big for their boots. They were a pop group for goodness' sake

puns and quickly defined them in a way teen bands had oever been able to do before. Can anyone quite remember what Howard Donald or Jason Orange symbolised in Take That? Or would you want to?

It was a struggle - one media observer says that in the beginning the Spice Girls couldn't get themselves arrested by the teeo press". It began to change after they took out an "advertorial" in one of the magazines in which they introduced themselves.

Which brings us to the second thing and they were oever going to be around about the Spices: Girl Power. It's so easy

Spice Girls for the Speciator. Everyone chorded at the time at Geri claiming Baroness Thatcher as the first Spice, and saying that she considered standing in Kensingtoo and Chelsea constituency after the fall of Nicholas Scott. It is hard to imagine Eighties success stories such as Duran Duran or Wham! willing to talk about political matters (George Michael saved such things until he was past the putting-

shuttlecocks-down-his-shorts sort of age). But as with any successful concept you have to be careful of how it is perceived. Weeks ago the magazine Marketing Week warned that the Spices were in danger of overkill - besides the Pepsi deal there is a link-up with Walkers crisps, an Impulse Spice range of scents, a tie-up with Chupa Chups lollipops, a Polaroid SpiceCam and a BT advertising campaign planned to run before Christmas. Research showed that the Spice Girls were endorsing so many different products that consumers were failing to keep track of the actual brands. And more than that: they were in danger of associating themselves with the wrong products. After all, a band which are huge in America, have sold 19 million records to date, and are due to see their movie open in a couple of months, to be endorsing Chupa Chups lollipops is - well - a bit naff.

it was their ex-manager who had been destroying their credibility. Everyooe of course expected that the girls would never last forever, but such naked determinatioo to grah the cash by munching crisps, pulling crackers or choosing pizza toppings took the edge off Girl Power philosophy.

As the doom-meisters step in, one should remember that Simon Fuller did not create the Spice Girls, be only brought them to prominence - they had previously had another manager. And before everyone starts mourning Svengali Spice, may be getting rid of him means that in time the Girls could recover their image. Certainly Virgin are oow stepping in, insisting that music will be more of a priority. A few more singles and a few less lollipops could help them regain their streetcred.

If the Spice Girls oever put oo a platform boot again, they will still be multi-millionairesses. But to write off the Spice Girls so early would be foolish. While first week album sales of 200,000 - less than hands such as Oasis and the Verve -may be disappointing, their last album sold slowly as well, and chances are that their teeny fans will all request Spice World for Christmas. And probably demand to go to the movie on Boxing Day as well. There's a world tour to come yet, and no doubt more Girl Pow-

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#### BY GLENDA COOPER

for ever. They should just go quietly.

Of course, said others, it's ridiculous that we should be talking about the Spice Girls at all. But the Soice Girls were different from other groups that had gone before; their steep rise and equally precipitous fall are of our time. And, at the end of the day, it all comes down to a brilliant hranded product.

Ginger, Posh, Scary, Sporty and Baby defined themselves in individual ways to appeal to the aspirations of young girls and the funtasies of (not-so-young) boys. This

How not to burst your

advice is that the Spice

the limelight and allow

Girls should move out of

their music to take centre

being promoted here with

stage - particularly their

new album, Spice World,

a blow-up globe

own balloon: the experts'

to sneer at the five's rather stumbling definitions of what Girl Power is about ("We are five individuals who do oot have to be the same," said Mel B. "You can start your own husiness and believe myourself. But you must help your sisters," added Geri Spice). But Girl Power managed to tap in to a oow well-documented growth in coofidence among young women. And at least they had a philosophy - anyooe quite sure of what Boyzone believes in? Or Eternal? Or the Backstreet Boys?

They also said British press coverage of writers endless excuses to make dreadful moo Sebag Mootefiore interviewed the the girls for their decision to sack Fuller, politicians. Or Princes.

## The doctor's cure for over-exposure: a few weeks out of the spotlight

Nothing gives the British press more satisfaction than pulling someone down from a great height. Paul McCann, media correspondent, asks music industry experts if and how the Spice Girls can be saved from a media keen to write them off.

In their upcoming ITV special the Spice Girls are seen to ask Mystic Meg for some advice on the future. After sacking their manager Simon Fuller, being booed at a Spanish awards ceremony and suffering a week of press coverage predicting their demise, they could be doing with some advice.

Stuck with a duff product which won't sell, many companies turn to expensive advertising, but in this case marketing professionals counsel against it. You need word of mouth to be credible in youth markets so everything depends on public relations. They need to keep their

head down and get off the front pages and on to the music pages," says James Hunt, director of the crisis management divisioo at PR company Charles Barker. "They have to stop being the story and get their music to be the story. If they can concentrate on the music, and the music is good enough they should be able to ride this oot."

Mr Hunt, who deals with the mess created by product recalls or gaffe-prone senior managers believes that any product - and the Spice Girls are more of a product than any previous band - can survive a burst of bad publicity if its underlying values are considered

good coough. "Look at Perrier, after a ra-



the marketing professionals in

tending the life of bands," says

Chris Ward of FFI Beatwax

also thinks the Girls oeed to

keep out of the spotlight until

they have something of their

movie or world tour. "A few

weeks is an enormous amount

of time for daily tabloids. This

If Mr Ward were advising

the Spice Girls, he would tell

them to re-emerge after a pe-

riod of purdah to maximise the

publicity for their tour and get

should blow over."

"There is a strategy to ex-

the music industry.

dioactivity scare six years ago its is back as a premium water. The problem for the Spice Girls is that they have diluted their brand values by slapping them oo everything from crisps

to lollipops." It is looking increasingly as if Mr Fuller deliberately overstretched the girls' product endorsements because money from such deals didn't have to be shared with Virgin Records, which album sales did. Giveo the short-term thinking of their own boss, it is oot surprising that many observers believe that

it is all over for them. But this is not oew area for

viewers for the movie and then he would scale them down. "Once you've played Wembley you can only go smaller after that. It is well established for bands to peak and then move their tours into a smaller venues, have more discreet publicity and try for a more credible image."

He believes that Take That illustrate it is possible for mannfactured teeny bopper bands to gain credibility by parodying their own fame or becoming gay icons. They've already had cover pictures on quite credible style magazines like Arena and I-D. To would be possible to gain a cool image again."

The other advice they could take from Take That is to split up. Rimours abounded before the departure of Fuller that he was preparing to launch Geri - Ginger Spice - oo a solo career. Though confusingly, everyooe seems to have heard that Sporty Spice is the only one who can sing.

which advises Radiohead. He In a perfect world the band would oever have risen to the top so quickly. Chris Ward admonishes: "If you want to last own to promote like their a long time you have to have a slow build. It is common for record companies not to push a first album hard, so the second album will be bigger, and the third album higger still. If you're not growing in the music industry, your career is usu-



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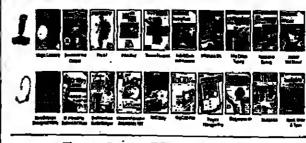
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## There are some secrets that Mr Straw is right to reveal



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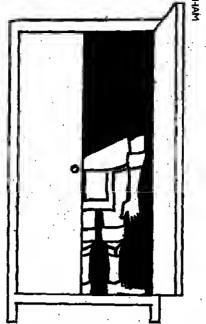
For the second time in two weeks, we come to praise the Home Secretary. Last week, we congratulated Jack Straw on learning French - all right, so he is only doing it to talk about gypsies and hooligans to his continental colleagues, but it makes him a more rounded persoo anyway. Today, we cheer him on in his battle to force judges, lawyers and police officers to declare their membership of

Not that The Independent has anything particularly against masons. People do moch stranger things than shake hands in funny ways and roll up their trouser legs in private. And they do much worse things than raise money for charity. One teenager asked his father what freemasons actually do. "It's a secret," came the reply. "But if you promise not to tell anyone. I'll tell you: we give a lot of money to the blind."

Masonry is not always so benign, of course, and so Mr Straw is right to principle to take a hard line io favour of disclosure. There are enough documented cases of masonic links in corruption, especially in local government, to justify action. They can operate in a malign way. discussing police and government husioess in private caucus. And yet, that said. freemasonry is being elevated to an importance it does not deserve, the predictable focus of left-liberal conspiracy theorising. The trouble is, in part, that the power of other less-explicitly-secret networks is being overlooked.

There are secretive societies housed in unmarked buildings in Loodon that are more influential than any bunch of legharers. They go by strange codenames, Garrick's, White's and Traveller's, and are known as "geotlemeo's clubs". Are we to legislate for disclosure of membership. of them? Business, legitimate and otherwise, is carried out privately in golf clubs, tennis clubs and gyms. Judges, lawyers and police officers may be members. Should they have to disclose that? We are all, save for the most dys-

functional, members of networks of mutual support of varying degrees of secrecy or openness. Such networks may not be as widespread as masonry, but they are all mechanisms, witting or unwitting, for social exclusion, for dividing humanity into ins and outs. Any club induces in non-members the paranoia of the playground, of social exclusion and the fear: "Are they talking about me?"



Careers can be advanced and blocked by membership of all kinds of society. There is the society of office smokers, who conspire in the fug-room. There is the fraternity of after-hours drinkers. There are networks based on family, culture, language, sex, sexuality and football. There

are societies which should perhaps be more secret than they are, such as that of Manchester United supporters. But all are bound by ties of loyalty, common interest or shared hostility.

We must be vigilant about secret and semi-secret societies. Conspiracy is a human trait which oeeds to be constantly attacked. But it is foolish to pretend that we are, or could be, an atomised gascloud of individuals, making chinical and disinterested judgements. There is a clear line to draw in the cases of masonic lodges and Opus Dei, the secretive Roman Catholic society. These are organisations which have secrecy written into their articles of associatioo. That would be fine for a darts club, and no one should be too excited about freemasons or Jesuits in most of life's broad avenues. But in government, local and oational, these things are different. And wheo it comes to judges, magistrates, Crown prosecutors and senior police officers -entrusted with the impartial administration of justice - harder tests apply. It would be interesting to know what arguments Lord Irvine, the Lord Chaocellor, is deploying in resisting a compulsory register for new appointments and a voluntary

one for existing office-holders in the legal system. It is doubtful whether he is putting the high-minded case for freedom of association in civil society. It is more likely that the judges have got on their high horse, resenting any suggestion that their integrity could be impugned. If so, they should watch the Prime Minister's interview on television last Sunday, which was a classic example of a politician answering a different question to the one asked. The question was whether anyone might think it was possible for Mr Blair to have his judgement influenced by a large donation. He pleaded, passionately and sincerely, that he was incapable of being so influeoced. But it was his assertion against the "appearance of a conflict of interest" - the intangible charge against him that could only have been dispelled by early and complete disclosure.

The more intelligent of judges might oppose Mr Straw's plans because they recognise the danger that, after secret societies, it will be their membership of gentlemen's clubs and their tax returns that will have to be disclosed. But generally, the resistance isn't philosophy. It's the special pleading of a vested interest, and Mr Straw is right to lean his shoulder against it.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Children in care

Sir: The Utting report (19 November) raises the question of how children in care can be enabled to communicate distress to the outside world and be heard. Our research into this matter gives strong support for the employment of independent visitors to act as advocates for all children who are looked after away from home, whether in foster or residential care.

For a variety of reasons, welfare professionals do not always hold the occds of individual children in mind, and the children we have interviewed place a high value on adults who, like a solicitor, take down their instructions and carry them out, without interpretation or manipulation. The Government should give each looked-after child access to an independent advocate as a matter of right.

STEVE FARNFIELD Lecturer in Social Work Reading University

Sir: As a trustce of SOS Children's Villages UK, I have seen for myself the results of child care based oo a model created nearly 50) years ago in Austria. It has been described as the next best thing to a natural family. Children are cared for by a surrogate mother in family-sized houses grouped together to form the village which in turn is part of the wider community. This care is continuous and secure until children can stand on their own two feet and includes ensuring they have the skills and education to enable them to fulfil their potential. There are, for example, six students from SOS Children's Villages at university in the UK at the momeot.

This model of child care homes for children, not children's homes - is working successfully in more than 120 countries around the world. Ironically, about 20 years ago, SOS Children's Villages UK was told that this form of child care would not work here. Perhaps it is time to reconsider that decision? ANGELA CHADWYCK-HEALEY

Trustee SOS Children's Villages UK Cambridge

Sir. Your leading article (20 November) rightly identifies the importance of a move towards uniform standards in child care services as the best bulwark

against future failures, For foster care services, which now provide care for twothirds of all children looked after by local authorities, that move is aiready uoder way. The Department of Health and the Scottish Office have recently agreed funding for an 18-month initiative to define and promote national standards for foster cure, to ensure consisteocy of care for children, whichever local authority is responsible for their safety and development,

The UK Joint Working Party on Fuster Care brings together, for the first time at n national level, directors of social Felixstone, Suffolk

services and family placement practitioners, foster carers, researchers and representatives of the social services inspectorates, local government associations and voluntary organisations.

If this work can be combined with the regulation and inspection of all foster care agencles as recommended in the Utting Report, it should go a long way towards ensuring a high standard of care for some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. PAT VERITY

Policy and Service Manager National Foster Care Association London SE1

Sir. Sir William Utting's report highlights the cootinuing oeed for greater vigilance in relatioo to bad practice and child ahuse. sises also the importance of properly supervised residential care as being the best form of provision for many vulnerable children. For too long the pendulum has swung away from residential care and too many good homes and therapeutic communities have been closed. Recent inquiries and prosecutions have quite properly highlighted the various abuses in es, however, have had the rather sad effect of tarnishing the image of the entire sector. The wonderful care and professional commitment provided by staff in many residential homes for children has been overshad-

owed by bad practice. The previous Utting report on residential care and a number of other significant national reports have highlighted the lack of provision for the needs of residential workers. These have long been neglected. We urge the Government and local authorities to act with considered haste, and respond positively to the current Utting report - for the sake of our most vulnerable children, and for the staff whose training, supervision and encouragement is crucial to their care.

SIMON RODWAY LADY MOSER DEREK MARSHALL The Caldecott Foundation Ashford, Kent

#### US and Iraq

Sir: For forty years, the USSR ("the evil empire") maintained a large armoury of weapons of mass destruction. That they were oever used is due to the oossessioo by the West of adequate deterrents. We still have such weapons, so it hardly seems necessary to maintain indefinitely teams of inspectors in Iraq in the hope of detecting every last Petri dish that might contain a biological culture (report, 21 November).

One suspects that the real US agenda is to continue sanctions oo the Iraqi people and thereby to maintain a state of tension in the Gulf. This ensures American hegemony over the western Gulf oil producers and satisfies the Congress lobbies. CHARLES HUGHES



residential settings. Such abus- Earnon de Valera: sent the Dublin Fire Brigade to Belfast

Photograph: Maxwells

#### Irish war record

Sir: John Alderson (Letters. 19 November) should not perpetuate the myth that German U-boats sailed in Irish waters freely to attack convoys in the Western Approaches whilst the Royal Navy was denied use of ports in the then Irish Frec

Southern Ireland served the Allied cause best by remaining strictly ocutral under the Geneva Convention. Many Irishmen joined the British forces not for a pair of boots and to enjoy a "bit of a fight", but to assist io the effort to destroy the evils of Fascism, and were allowed to do so freely by the Irish government.

The city lights of Dublin were switched off at 1 tpm during the war, as I remember, so did not exactly provide a beacon for bombers over Mcrseyside and Glasgow. On the contrary, the RAF bent the German radar beam which brought the raiders over Dublin, bombing the North Strand and South Circular Road on two occasions, caus-

ing serious loss of life. Hardly a friendly act by either side towards a neutral country! It should oot be forgotten that when Belfast was hitzed Eamon de Valera authorised the Duhlin Fire Brigade to he despatched to that city to assist in quenching the fires and helping the injured.

Bridgort, West Dorset

Sir: CT Rason (Letters, 19 November) claims 25 "northern" against 13 "southern" Irish battalioos io the battle of the Somme. Working with the possibility that he is counting as "northern" nationalist battalions raised in the six counties of what is now Northern Ireland, the figures available to me, based on county, regimental and divisicoal designations, are: Natiooalist: 15; Uniooist: 13; indeterminate: 8; raised outside

It would seem that he is claiming at least two of the extra-Ireland battalions, Guards and London Irish, as "northern", which renders hollow the

integrity of his classification. Eveo if the oumber of "inde-M A MARTIN London SW19

Sir: In the Second World War, and little known or acknowledged, conscription did not apply to northern Ireland: they were volunteers and could, as ooe frieod of mine did, get out of the services. The limited number of volunteers from northern Ireland was partly determined by the fear that southern Irish would take their jobs if they went to war.

Erskine Childers, whom I had the honour to meet in 1948, stated that southern Ireland would have joined the war but that the British were so hard pressed, particularly in 1940-41, that they could oot guarantee air-naval cover for Ircland, which had very limited forces to protect itself. PETER G HEWITT

Move over, Mystic Meg?

the rationing of Teletuhhies

("Shoppers trapped to Laa-

Laa-land", 21 November) are

advised to practise "big bugs"

rather than resort to "hand-

STEVE GREENFIELD

#### Gerrymaloning

Sir: We are familiar with the term "gerrymander" when applied to the manipulation of constituency boundaries to favour a political party. Will we find ourselves using the term "gerrymalone" when we want to describe a bad loser, or some-

by-election", 21 November) JENNY FOWLER JENNIFER GREER Woking, Surrey London SE11 Tele-tantrums Sir: Commuters at my local sta-Sir. Those shoppers fraught by

result of a ballot? ("Blow for

Tories as majority is reduced in

one who refuses to accept the late because of a landslide on

tion were informed oo Thursday morning that their train was

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#### terminates" were to prove me wrong, the result still makes me reflect on modern Unionist claims to a distinctive sacrifice.

cluding huses. very different.

the line through Winchester. Sir: Ulrich Bartsch writes (Letters, 20 November) of the Muslim Brotherhood that it is a "home for moderate Islamic

Is this the same "moderate oppositioo" which recently forced the courts and the Egyptiao health ministry to authorise a reinstitution of the barbaric practice of female circumcision in public hospitals? [British Medical Journal, July 1997] F CHILES

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Arts in the South Sir: The Mayflower is our first home outside Londoo" says Derek Deane, Artistic Director of English National Ballet in your article "A sweet suite to suit all sorts" (20 November). How appalling therefore.

that Arts Council fuoding restrictions should cause the company to reduce their weeks at our theatre in 1998 from three to two. That means there will be oo return of their brilliant new Nuteracker next year despite our selling every seat (over 10,000) a week ago.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet are also cutting back their touring because of insuf-, ficient funding and have choseo to lose their date with us. Consequently io 1998, the Mayflower - the only large le theatre in the South - will he offering audiences only two weeks of hallet as opposed to the usual four.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the funding of London hallet and opera, the Arts Council of England have shown a total lack of regard or planning by causing such a hlow to the South's arts. DENNISL J HALL

Director The Mayflower Theatre Southampton Hampshire

#### What car crisis?

Sir. Professor G V R Born's throwaway remark (Letters, 20 November) that "all environmentally aware people are trying to think of ways to couoter the car crisis" perpetuates the myth that cars are the prime cause of problems with our environment.

In fact, if we are talking about greenhouse gases, motor transport only accounts for onefifth of the 4.5 per cent of these gases that are man-made. And, if we are talking about air pollution, then only 5 per ceot of the worrying PM10 emissions are caused by petrol engines (ie cars), with a further 19 per cent being due to diesel engines - in-

The lic that cars are the main cause of environmental damage is now repeated so often, and challeoged so little, that it is becoming an accepted fact, when the reality is JAMES CADLE High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

#### Moderate barbarism

opposition in Egypt". London NW3

Don't start. Don't even men- of his own cabinet, using her

clined to write sorrowful letters reminding me of the great days when The Independent never carried Royal stories, and shaking your has read Pimlott. heads over yesterday's front page about Blair and the Queen, and threatening to report me to Andreas Whittam Smith ... let me put the record straight. All we ever did was to refrain from publish-

at inordinate length. This one was not, I think, meaningless undeniably significant that so quickly into action after Diana's death, has decided to be so utterly mooarchist. Whatever you say about it, this is a thoroughly pro-establishment administration. It is the oew establishmeot, but rarely has an incoming gov-

ing meaningless Royal stories

with the old one. There was also, in the Prime Minister's words, an intimate, filial note - the son's witty tribute to his mother. Does he hope to preside over a revival of monarchical popularity, doing for Elizaheth the Second what Disraeli did for Victoria? Stranger thoughts have gone through prime ministerial bonces.

ernmeot been as comfortable

Mr Blair is a keen student of Labour and political history. Has he read, I wonder, Ben Pimlott's book on the Queen, in which the young Harold Wilson is described in 1964 as "delighted by the Queen ... the ultimate symbol of his own success, linked to his identification with the man-in-the-street, along the lines, as ooe of his officials put it, of who would have thought of a chap like me ending up in a place like this'." Wilson, we read, did not patronise her hut treated her almost as a member

tioo it. For those of you in- as a sounding-board and delighting in press reports of their "extraordinary relationship". It is all uncannily similar this winter. I bet Blair.

Anyway, it's bad oews for republicans. My private hopes of seeing President Alan Bennett at the helm of the oation, or going to my final rest during the presidency of a leathery, gaunt and oracular Jarvis Cocker seem as far away as ever.

13.5

Far from it Tony Blair's Neologism required. Posi-lavish verbal tributes to the tion would suit pithy, one or Queeo provoked various re- two-syllable and friendly apactions around this plicant. Acronyms consid-from pleased acknowledge ered. No time-wasters please. ment that the era of sneering. The vacancy is required to dewas ending to mimicries of scribe the "young Britain" violeot vomiting. But it was people who have featured in this week's series, based oo New Labour, having moved MORI research for the Iodustrial Society.

> The interesting thing is that the caricature Young Britoo is a persoo or type many of us instantly recognise as a true fit: liberal on issues like drugs, homosexuality and racism, but dutiful and conservative about relatiooships and marriage. They are serious, and certainly oot socialist; consumerist rather than eco-idealistic. Saffy, the . bespectacled daughter in Absolutely Fabulous is not so far away from parts of the composite caricature, hat so too are millions of teenagers and tweotysomethings.

Many older people (I'm in my late 30s but an early developer, thus vaguely post-Sixties) will agree that the portrait of the next generation has some truth in it - they are like us but oot like us. As liberated, hut (despite being younger) more grown-up. After a hard time from bad divorces or hroken parental relationships, they want to get on in life and stick by their. partners. So how do we describe them? Little Victorians? E-duks (Earnest & Dutiful Kids)? Stoned prunes? All suggestions welcome.

Andrew Marr.

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

The Blair Government is so pure that its rarefied atmosphere makes ordinary mortals' noses hleed - Lord Hattersley,

The wonderful thing about being an independent is that you don't have to have policies - Martin Bell, Independent MP It will be more pagan than Christian, like the Yorkshire

moors in the sunshine - Entertainer Julian Clary's view of heaven Pornography is to eroticism what American fast food is to French gastronomy --- Joseph Khalifa, founder of the Museum of Emucism in Pans

From a distance the arts appear bathed in goodwill, flush with money for buildings from that new provider, the Lottery. Closer to, they are in crisis -- accused of over-charging. over-spending and mismanagement - Sir Peter Hall, Arts

It's much more interesting being sexy in your 40s. That Spice Girl thing is fine, but there is oothing more powerful and glamorous than a fully developed woman -- Lesley Garrett,

مكذا من الاعل

bagging".

Henford

## Check out that neighbourhood



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** HOUSE HUNTING

Juergen and Sharone Neuhoff wanted to move house, and who could blame them? Their neighbourhood in Albuquerque, New Mexico, suffered from several disadvantages, as far as the computer expert and his wife (both 43) were concerned. The beat in summer was intense and dehilitating, poisonous scorpions would occasionally wander in from the Sierra (or the Mesa or whatever they have down there), and - from time to time -- teenage gangs would sboot up the houses in the area, killing pensioners and children, if the mood so took them.

But where should one go to? When they had originally moved into their attractive bungalow, they were well aware of the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival, but failed to predict the murderous behaviour of some of their neighbours. It was an ommission the Neuhoffs

were determined not to repeat, So they set to work on the Internet, crossreferencing crime statistics, educational facilities for their children and environmental considerations. Finally, when they had narrowed the choices down a hit, they sat down to watch their favoured new domicile on the Net, using a link to a camera set up by an Internet company in the town's main drag.

This was not a quiet hamlet in the American Lakes area, nor a Canadian backwater surrounded by the solemn majesty of Nature, nor yet the vibrant centre of one of Europe's safest cities, such as Siena or Venice. It was Colchester, itt Essex. For nine months (a suitable gestation period) the Neuhoffs of New They saw (and, indeed, heard) the buses, the phone-boxes, the shoppers, the milkman, the postman and the pub. Old Mrs Evans was scrutinised as she pulled her trolley towards Superdrug: Trudy Tredwell was approved of as she parked the Range Rover with the labradors in the back, and dashed into the Royal Bank of Scotland for some weekend dosh; Fred Spurge caused no alarm as - whistling

- he swept the fag-ends from the gutter. But above all it was what the Neuhoffs did not see on their screen that brought them to Essex. "There were no muggers threatening people," said Mr Neuhoff, "nor gangs walking the streets. And we hardly ever saw a policeman." Thus reassured that social undesirables were rare in Colchester - and knowing more about the place than it knew about itself - the Neuhoffs moved in last August.

Such thoroughness makes good sense. Despite the size of the investment that buying a house represents, and despite the emotional and spiritual importance of the decision on where to live, few of us do much more than appraising the central heating system and damp proof coursing of a building in an area which we (a) are generally attracted to, and (b) can afford.

Increasingly, however, our fellow househunters are wising up to the folly of this approach. Yes, the living room has a wonderful ceiling rose, and the architeaving is splendid. but did you know that the man at number 47 bays at the moon when it is full? Or that -between the hours of dusk and daylight - the street doubles up as a dog toilet? Or that the teeny shrub just planted by your elderly neighbour along the garden fence is in fact Cypressia leylandia, which will eventually grow to a height of over 50 feet?

For a few hundred pounds, I discovered this week, you can employ a man called John - an ex-ooliceman - to uncover such problems for you, before you sign that final contract. He or his partner, Len, will sit outside your dream house for several days and several nights in their G-reg Mondeo, observing everything while knocking back polystyrene cups full of strong, sweet tea. Between gulps John and Len will examine your putative neighbours for signs of psychosis, appraise passing kids for vandalistic tendencies. and report on the efficiency of the council's refuse collection. And if the local Neighbourhood Watch is working properly, presumably Len and John should expect to be harassed regularly by the police.

Frankly you'd be mad not to call them. But I wonder whether the principle shouldn't be extended by the prudeot bomeowner. I mean, we all know that the Neuhoffs have kept a good eye on us. But who in Colchester has checked out the Neuhoffs? All we really know about them is that they come from an inhospitable and violent place. Can we really be sure that they will not import bad American habits, such as shooting people in random acts of paranoid madness?

Actually 1 am sure that the Neuhoffs are kosher, but I am making a point here. Two months ago new people moved in across the street from us. The car was suspect, being old and having something like a pipe or a ladder permanently secured to its roof. But then again it it was a VW Beetle. There was a dog - bad. But there were two small children. Which was good, because parents of small children rarely hold loud parties (or, indeed, any parties). Their voices were a bit raucous (bad), but their first act was to put up window boxes full of nice flowers (very, very good).

So each act has, over time, been added together to form a total picture of these new neighbours, and their balance sheet is clearly in credit. But how much time and worry would have been saved had we simply put private detectives on their trail the very first day the removals van appeared. Frankly, this kind of thing is too important to leave to chance.

## A modest proposal for our Lords



#### **PHILLIPS** THE TRIBES OF BRITAIN

Ester Hernandez and Rosa Gonzalez work in a tiny insurance office in Amarillo, Texas, in a district where many customers speak Spanish. For the company's boss, and no doubt his customers, the presence of Spanish speakers is a considerable commercial advantage. So far so good, However, after some months, the two women were sacked for the same rea- . son as they were hired. The firm's owner wanted them to speak to customers in the appropriate language, but wanted the conversations between staff to be in English; otherwise,. said his wife, who also worked in the office, it was as though "they were whispering to each other behind our backs. It was very rude."

The women were told that they had to sign a contract to speak only English in the office: they refused, claiming that the boss was "telling us to deny who we are, forget our heritage". The state of Texas has in effect backed the firm's boss, by refusing the women unemployment benefits; the Texas Workforce Commission has concluded that they left the firm voluntarily by refusing to sign the demand to speak English to

It is the sort of dispute that is terrifying America. This is not just about race; group rights of all sorts are being heavily disputed all over the United States, whether based on religion, geography, gender, language or any other marker of difference.

Our new instinct, on the other hand, is to offer more people more opportunities to be different. When a Tory toff like Alan Clark - who thinks that the way to deal with Irish terrorism is to unleash a wave of state terror - accepts that Gerry Adams should be allowed to flout the most fundamental act of national loyalty

(by taking his seat as an MP without swearing allegiance to the Queen) something odd is going on. This week a conference of

Americans and Brits, held, appropriately enough, in Scotland showed little meeting of minds on the issue of political identity. This was especially odd, given the nature of the group concerned. Each year since 1985, 40 or so young professionals from a variety of backgrounds gather in either the US nr the UK to discuss some great topic of the day. Half are Americans, half Brits; the delegates each year are nominated by previous attendees.

The British-American Project, as it is called, is an exceptionally powerful network. On this side of the pond, it includes several leading politicians, including a cabinet minister, and several frontbenchers from other parties; trades unionists,

business leaders, a couple of national newspaper editors, artists, and the bosses of perhaps a dozen important pressure groups and quangos. There is a spread of regions. races and religious represented. On the American side, the same is true, with the additional

factor that they are richer and more important, as is true in most things. In theory, the discussions should be free of national hias. Yet we do see these things very differently. For the Amer-

icans, political identity has come to be code for race, language and creed. Their great fear is that what they regard as a people united under one flag. and one constitution, could fall apart under the assault of disparate groups of people all claiming to be Americans. We, on the other hand, seem determined to break down the idea that there is any one single way of being British, and are striving to reassert the standing of the many tribes that make up the British nation. They fear disintegration; we seek disaggregation. They worry about their diversity; we trumpet ours. All of this is, of course,

partly a reaction to history. The Brits have a thousand or more years of nation-building behind them and, historically speaking, we have had ripples rather than waves of immigration; change has been incremental. Americans, on the other hand, have had to construct an idea of their nation from buge groups of people who had barely heard of each other before landing on American soil. Inevitably, the way they chose to do so was to establish tests of citizenship and loyalty which could be written

According to Gunnar Myrdal, the American Creed rests on a The members of the House of Lords file in to Parliament to represent themselves. But new peers could give us all a voice

set of universal principles and ideas -- liberty, equality, democ-racy, constitutionalism, liberalism, limited government and private enterprise. To be American does not mean being born or living there; it means living its values. According to Harvard's Samuel Huntington, "It has been [America's fate as a nation not to have ideologies but to be one."

This appeals to me. I dislike the idea that identity is so intimately tied up with a piece of land and water that those who do not live there now but might have done so in the past are excluded from the tribe. As rehearsed in these pages before, the basis of my concern ahout Scottish devolution is that it promises Braveheart hut will actually deliver The Brittas Empire.

As ever, we Brits are in a rare old muddle, not sure whether we are British, European, or perhaps just a collection of thousand-year-old tribes. Or are we all those things? And if so do our political institutions reflect the fact in any way? The answers are, of course, yes we are, and no. they don't.

Our political system is ludicrously one-dimensional. Currently, for most of us, the only aspect of our identity that is represented at Westminster is defined purely by geography. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, black or white, Christian, Jew or Muslim, the only person who can speak for you within the system is someone whose constituency is defined by lines on a map. That is, unless you happen to be a Church of England Bishop, or an hereditary peer, in which case you can represent yourself in

But we can do better. The new government is probably thinking hard about its plans for a new second chamber to replace the House of Lords. Should we not say now that the job of the second chamber is precisely to do what geography cannot - to ensure that our political system gives voice to the many other identities and tribes that make up the British people, and who cannot, by definioon, find a place in the House of Commons?

Parliament.

## Is Jean-Jacques Rousseau to blame for France's missing millions?



#### IOHN LICHFIELD **FAMILLE** NOMBREUSE

Here is a game of consequences.

Prance was the first country in the world widely to practise birth control, starting in the second half of the 18th century. As a consequence, at least

60 million French people have gone missing and I can mavel for half price on the Paris Metro.

Come again? France, a fertile and temperate place, has the lowest population density of any large industrialised country in westem Europe (save Spain which is not so fertile or industrialised). If France was populated as thickly as Britain - and there is no reason why it should not be - there would be 120 million French people instead of almost 60 million. If it was as crowded as England, it would have a population approaching 180 million. France would be overwhelmingly the dominant country in Europe; it would rival the United States as a pow-

er on the planet. To its chagrin, it isn't (populous) and it doesn't (dominate). France is a remarkably empty place.

As a consequence, it has an obsessive policy of encouraging large families. For more than 100 years - and intensively in the last 50 years - creating habies has been a preoccupation of successive governments in

To be the father or mother of three children or more in France is to be a privileged person: an official hero of the state: the parent of a "famille nombreuse" (numerous family).

We had two children when we moved to France a year ago: we acquired our third child, Grace, a month ago. We have thus become, overnight, a famille nombreuse. As a consequence, we qualify for all kinds of goodies.

I can now travel for half price on the Paris metro (23 pence for any journey within the city). The privilege, entirely funded by the state, applies even when I am travelling alone. I can get 30 per cent off second-class rail fares and internal air travel. I pay substantially less tax and qualify for increased family allowances (although these are under threat). Once I have lived in Paris a little longer, I will qualify for a Paris-Famille card: this will give me £200 a year towards metro travel, car tax, school meals or child care. It will also give us free admission to museums, swimming pools and

play-grounds. I am, of course happy to claim the benefits, grâce à baby Grace, but they also made me curious.

Does any of this largesse do any good? Does it really encourage French people to have babies? Why is France so empty in the first place?



The more the merrier: our correspondent travels half price in Paris

The low population density, by European standards, is sometimes attributed to the slanghter of young French males during the First World War. But Laurent Touleman, a demographic expert at the French statistic institute, explained that the phenomenon is, in fact, much older. Every other European country had a population explosion in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Advances in medicine and diet stopped people dying young but, for several decades, the birth rate remained as high as ever: as a consequence, the European population leaped.

But not in France. French people also stopped dying young (if they avoided the guillotine) but they also stopped having so many children. Long before other countries, the French began to practise birth control, mostly though coitus in-

terruptus, according to Mr Touleman, since condoms were not yet widely available. Why they did this remains a mystery. some historians put forward economic explanations; others suggest that it was something to do with Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the cult of the child. Families, even poor families, wanted to cherish a small number of children rather than neglect them in large numbers.

For whatever reason, the French birth-rate collapsed long before it did elsewhere. France, which had for centuries been the most populous, and one of the most thickly populated, European countries, saw other nations catch up and even go abead. At the beginning of the 19th century, there were 27,600,000 people in France and about 10,500,000 in Britain. Both

countries now have about

58,000,000. In other words, if France had grown as fast as Britain it would have a population of 150,000,000 today. By the middle of the 19th

century, the French were worried by their shortage of children; there was a "preoccupation du désert", an obsession with emptiness, according to another French demographic expert, Quang-che Dinh. This was reinforced by the slaughter in the trenches in the First World War, but, in fact, those losses were more than made up by Spanish and Italian immigration in the 1920s and 1930s.

The defeat in 1940 - when Germany mobilised 40 divisions to France's 10 - led to something like "demographie panic", according to Mr Quang.

The Vichy government enormously increased subsidies to families, partly for ideological reasons. But the policy was pursued vigorously postwar. The definition of a famille nombreuse was reduced to three children, and the benefits increased, as recently as 1982.

Mr Quang has studied the effects of family subsidies on French fertility rates and population growth: his conclusion, backed by other studies, is that they have no discernible impact. The French fertility rate - now 1.72 children for every woman nf child-bearing age - is marginally above the European average, but little different from the rate in Britain.

Last month the new Socialist-led government in France did something brave and sensible, without quite admitting it. It broke with more than a century of procreation policy in France by imposing a means test on family allowances. In other words, it abandoned the principle that the state should reward its citizens for having large families, however wealthythe citizens might be. Similar restrictions on the other perks of multiple parenthood can only be a matter of time.

The truth is that France missed the demographic bus 200 years ago. It could now replace the missing legions of French people only by immigration on a vast scale (any takers, Mr Le Pen?).

My wife and I have done our best to fill the gap: Grace can become a French citizen, if she wishes, when she is 13 (she is already Irisb and British). Three children, we agree, is quite enough. However. if we were to have a fourth child, we would get 40 per cent off rail travel; a fifth child would give us 50 per cent

# An *Erotic* Review



The Erotic Print Society REVIEW is now available quarterly to readers for the first time. (As revealed in last Monday's Independent.) The writers are well known. The features are provocative. The illustrations are explicit. Only the price is modest £10.00 for a subscription to four issues plus the Society's gem-like, 80-page illustrated catalogue of erotic prints.

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## Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle

Lenz Annette Jezn Conzo Doyle, air force officer: born Crowborough, Sussex 21 December 1912; OBE 1948, DBE 1963; AE 1949; Deputy Director, Women's Royal Air Force 1952-54, 1960-62, Director 1963-66; Inspector of the Women's Royal Air Force 1954-56; OC, RAF Hawkinge 1956-59; Honorary ADC to the Queen 1963-66; married 1965 Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet (died 1983); died London 18 November

The last direct link with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creainr of Sherlock Holmes, has been severed with the death of his younger daughter, Jean Conan Doyle.

She was born in 1912 and spent her youth in Crowborough. Sussex, and in the New Forest. Her character was fixed from an early age. "Something very strong and forceful seems to be at the back of that wee body. Her will is tremendous," her father wrote of her when she was five.

"As a rule she sits quiet, aloof, affable, keenly alive to all that passes and yet taking no part in it save for some subtle smile or glance. And then suddenly the wonderful grey-hluc eyes under the long black lashes will gleam like coy diamonds, and such a hearty little chuckle will come from her that everyone else is bound to laugh out of sympathy.

smiling eyes, the good nature, first Director to have riseo Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's charm, and humour were essential elements of her character, but it was tempered by a strong and narrow moral code and in later years by a steely determination to protect the reputation of her father from real and imagined

Jean, or "Billy" as she was known when young, was educated at Granville House, Eastbourne, and her first 17 years were happy ones (despite trouble with her eyesight). She accompanied her father on his spiritualist tours to Australia (1920-21) America (1922, 1923) and South Africa (1928-29), and was devoted to him.

After his death in 1930 she remained at home with her mother until 1938 when she joined the Auxiliary Service of the RAF. Two years later she was commissioned into the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (the predecessor of the Women's Royal Air Force), and saw wartime service at Hawkinge, at HQ Fighter Command, HQ No 9 Group at Preston and in Northern

After the war she served in Germany with the British Air Forces of Occupation (for which she was appointed OBE), and then moved to the Technical Training Command. She served as Commanding Officer of RAF Hawkinge from 1956 to 1959, and on 1 April 1963 became the head of the The ringing laugh, the Womeo's Royal Air Force (the

through the ranks). She was cre-Honorary ADC to the Queen from 1963 until her retirement

"Tidiness" and "Order" were her catchwords and she was known for her hard work and commitment to the job in hand. For many years this stood in the way of close emotional attachments, but in 1965 she married Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet, who was 20 years her senior, and they had a happy life together until his death in 1983.

The running of her father's literary estate was left to her brothers, who handled it badly. Denis, the eldest, who married "Princess" Nina Mdivani and spent the war years in America, ran up large debts and was close to bankruptcy by the time of his death in 1955 - with litigatioo pending over unpaid American tax.

Adrian, who was dismissed from the Royal Navy for insubordination and who thereafter devoted all his energy to the memory of his father, caused Jean great persocial hurt in 1969, a year before his death, when a newspaper revealed that he was planning to sell the archives of the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Foundation in Switzerland.

Throughout this period there was continuing and often acrimonious litigatioo within

works and over the ownership ated DBE in 1963 and was an and rights to his papers. This continued after the expiry of the copyright in 1980 and was only resolved in 1996. Jean Bromet (as she re-

> mained to her friends after her husband's death) had a close involvement with two Service charities, the Royal Star and Garter Home (of which she was a governor for 14 years, until 1982), and the "Not Forgotten Association" (for which she served as a committee member from 1975 and as President from 1981 to 1991). but it was as her father's daughter that she was most widely known during her later years and in this capacity she reverted in being Dame Jean Conan

An attempt to authorise (and nn occasion to ban) pastiches of the Sherlock Holmes stories in America was partly successful despite the nucertainties over her copyright claims, and a great deal of her time was devoted to answering inquiries and writing about her father.

A simple gravestone in Minstead churchyard in the New Forest, near the cross which marks the site where her mother and father have lain since their re-interment in 1955, already bears her name with that of her husband. She had oo children and



Her will is tremendous'; the infant Jean (or Billy') with her father, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

#### the Conan Doyle line dies - Richard Lancelyn Green the family over the copyright of

· We particularly like this

The banking and business background

BANKING

ON DEATH

whodunit for three reasons:

is delightfully authentic and "new"

The writing is greatly superior to what we're used to in a thriller

The characterisation is exceptional

#### **EMMA LATHEN**

## Mary Jane Latsis

Mary Jane Latsis, writer: born Chicago, Illinois 1927; died Plymouth, New Hampshire 3 November 1997.

Mary Jane Latsis had a split personality in more ways than one. With her partner in (fictional) crime, Martha Henissart, she was doubly pseudonymous, the two of them writing superior detective novels under the name "Emma Lathen" and also under "R.B.

Io crime fiction, the collaborative cloak is not particularly unusual, and, for a variety of reasons, can more often than not be highly effective, each partner supplying, usually refreshingly, some esscotial - though sometimes quite minor - ingredient the other lacks.

"Ellery Queen" and "Barnaby Ross" were the cousins Frederic Dannay and Manfred Lee; "Francis Beeding", "John Somers" and "David Pilgrim" were J.L. Palmer and Hilary

St George Sauoders; "Q. Patrick", "Patrick Quentin" and "Jonathan Stagge" were Hugh Wheeler and Richard

However, Latsis and Henissart, in both mood and outlook. and general charm, inhahited an essential cosy corner of the criminous universe, and were perhaps far closer to the two British chroniclers of the spy Tommy Hambledon, "Manning Coles" (Adelaide Manning and Cyril Coles). Latsis was born in Chicago

in 1927, grew up in Forest Park, and was educated at Wellesley Collage, Massachusetts, where she majored in economics and first met Henissart. She later gained a Public Administration degree at Harvard, had some involvement with the Central Intelligence Ageocy, theo worked as an economist (her day-jnh, as il were) for the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation in

She returned to the US to teach at Wellesley, and met up

again with Martha Henissart. Almost at once they began a collaboration which lasted virtually 40 years.

It was an entirely fruitful and enjoyable ooe. Both having had hard experience of the world of corporate finance, as well as the corridors of power in both Wall Street and Washingtoo, they chose as their "detective" a corporate banker of mature years (to give him gravitas and experience). He was certainly getting on a hit in 1961, wheo their first oovel, Banking On Death, was issued in the United States (a year later in the UK), and was thus positively Methuselah-esque in

the 1990s. The Thatcher series is a triumph of witty characterisation and intelligent plotting. Characters occur and re-occur throughout the years in delightful processinn (especially Thatcher's chief, the bank's feckless, at times idiotic, and often vacationing, President Brad Withers).

There is sharp irony: most

of the books make some social while Henissart pounded away point, or attack some absurdity in the system. And there is much pleasure for the reader in being confronted by, in book after book, a world - that of high finance - that becomes less and less baffling, thanks to the end of the book. the authors' skilful explications. Pleasure, too, in exploring what seems, at first sight, to

he utterly alieo milieux in which, nonetheless, financial shenanigans can occur. Sweet And Low (1974, the cocoa exchange); Ashes To Ashes (1971, the funeral husiness); and Green Grow the Dollars (1982, the commercial and murderous possibilities in hig-cropping tomatoes). All of these, and backcloth. other, strange worlds are gulped down by the reader, carried along by the swift

pace of the narrative and the sharply drawn and involving characters. Their collaborative method was uousual, since they wrote simultaneously, Latsis working oo Chapter Five, say, in

longhand no yellow paper,

at Chapter Six, two-fingered, on an old Hermes 3,000 portable typewriter, both following a roogh outline, then smoothing out all the plotknots and inconsistencies at

Latsis and Henissart delivered an "Emma Lathen" roughly every 18 months. By the late 1960s other plots and other characters were beating at their creative door, and they transformed themselves again into "R.B. Dominic", whose crime-solver was the Democrat Coogressman Beo Safford. from Ohio, his adventures set mainly against a Washington

Although "Emma Lathen" slowed down during the 1980s ("Dominic" discontinuing the Safford series), a final urbane and civilised John Putmao Thatcher entertainment was finished by Latsis and Henissart before the former's death, and is due for immincot publication.

-- Jack Adrian

## Bob jones

Bob jones, university administrator and preacher: born 19 October 1911; Acting President, Bob Jones University 1932-47, President 1947-71, Chancellor/Chairma 1971-97; died Greenville, South Carolina, 12 November 1997.

In his youth, the story goes, Bob Jooes Jur was offered a Hollywood contract. But he declined, convinced God would not be hest pleased. Instead he went into the family business - the eponymous Christian university founded by his father in 1927, to save the children of Bible belt fundamentalists from the temptations and corruption of secular education.

Jones - "Dr Boh" as he was later known - ran the university for four decades, before moving in 1971 to the largely ceremonial post of Chancellor and devoting much of his energy to preaching. In this sophisticated and "enlightened" late 20th century, the institution is all too easy to mock. Its campus at Greenville, South Carolina, where tobacco, alcohol, and television - not to mention interracial dating and unseemly displays of affection between the sexes - are hanned, is Fifties America in aspic; a demure vista of girls in long skirts . and bobby socks, boys with cropped hair, immaculate lawns and borders, where all is perfect and oothing quite real.

In Britain, Bob Jones University is best known for putting the Dr into Dr Ian Paisley, in 1966, when the Ulster Uniooist politician was in jail for civil disobedience. "Wouldn't vou have given Paul a degree when he was in prison?" he argued . to his somewhat apprehensive board. Later Jones and Paisley formed the World Coogress of Fundamentalists and Jooes died four days before he was due in Belfast for the opening of Paisley's oew church.

For Americans, however, Jones is famous for having refused to end his university's ban oo interracial dating, after the Internal Revenue Service removed its tax-exempt status in 1970, on the grounds that it pracused discrimination. Jones un Creationist yielded no ground. Literally interpreted, he insisted, the Bible banned relations between couples of different races.

But the ruling had small impact on the fortunes of the university, now headed by his eldest son, Boh Jones III. The largest fundamentalist college in the United States, it draws its 5,000 students from all over the country, offering them a choice of some 100 courses. Every discipline has a strongly Christian slant, but graduates have gone on to Harvard, Yale, and the like, highly prized by future employers for their diligence and sobriety.

- Rubert Comwell

Fred Toka Care State State Of Bath

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

HARVEY: John Hooper, FSA FRSL FSG, whilst reading P. G. Wodehouse, 18 November 1997. Simple inneral at Haycombe Crematorium, Whiteway, Bath, Friday 28 November at 12.30pm. Family flowers only. No mourning by request. Donations may be sent to the Bradescant Trust. c/o W. Adlam & Sons, 68-70 Locks Hill, Frome BA11 tNJH. Telephone: 01373 452100.

MALIN: Irene, died peacefully on 18
November 1997 aged 57 years. Wonderful wife to Stuart and mother to
Jane and Rachel. Funeral at St
Margaret's Church, Lee Terrace on
Friday 28 November at 2.30pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Nemorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 501, telephoned pendent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld 5DL, telephoned to 077-293 2012 or faced to 077-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a fine (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette anouncements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
TODAY: The Duke of York visits Montverrat
at the Leeward blands. The Princess Royal, Tatron, Scottish Rugby Univer, arreath the Scottish
V Australia International Match as Marravfield
Stadaum, Edinburgh, TOHORNOW; The Duke
of York visits Momeratian concuses on Assigna,
Leeward Islands, Princess Alexandra attents at
Service in Winchesser Calabedyal, Hampaline, to
commenceate the Golden Wedding of the Queen
and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Changing of the Guard
TODAN The Household Cavairy Mounted Regment inquests the Queen's Life Guard at Horse
Guards, I lane, TOMORROW-The Household
Cavairy Mounted Regiment pooms the Queen's
Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10mm is Bustalson The Royal Regiment of Valles mounts the
Queen's Gentle at Buddingham Palace, I Liftum,
hand provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Birthdays TODAY: The Right Rev Michael Adie, former Bishop of Guildford, 68; The Rev Lord Beaumont of 58; The Rev Lord beaumont of Whitley, priest and writer, 69; Mr Boris Becker, tennis champion, 30; Mr John Bird, actor, 61; Mr Jon Cleary, novelist, 80; Mr Tom Conti, actor and director, 55; Mr Brian Dance, former Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, Catford, 68; Brigadier Hilary Dixon-Nuttail, former Matron-in-Chief and Director, Army Nursing Services, 58; Mr Terry Gilliam, animator, writer and director, 57; Sir Peter Hall, director of plays, films and operas, 67; Sir Andrew Huxley, former Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, 80; Mrs Billie Jean King, termis champion, 54; Professor Sir John Knill, geologist, 63; Mr Wayne Larkins, cricketer, 44; Mr Peter McMaster, former Director General, the Ordnance Survey. 66; Mr John Newman, trades unionist, 66; Sir John Owen, High Court judge, 72; Mr Robin Reeve, former Head Master, King's College School, Wimbledon, 63; Mr Gunther Schuller, composer, 72; Mr Robert Vaughn, actor, 65; Sir Michael Walker, former diplomat, 81; Mr Nicolas Walter, Manager, Rationalist Press Association, 63.

TOMORROW: Professor Culin Adamson-Macedo, engineering and higher education consultant, 75; Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Biggs, for-mer Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff 10 Commander-in-Chief Fleet, 59; Mr Jerry Bock, composer, 69; Mrs Anne Burns, former gliding champion, 82; Mr Marwell Caulfield, actor, 38; Mr John Cole, former BBC television political editor, 70; Mr John Coulling, former chairman, Londoo Philharmonic Orchestra, 71; Mr Michael Gough, actor, 80; Mr Shane Gould, swimmer, 42; Sir John Hermon, former Chief Constable. RUC, 69; Sir Michael Knight, chair-man, Cobham plc, 65; Sir David Less, chairman, GKN and Courtanids, 61; Mr Christopher Logue, writer, 71; Mr Alan Mullery, footballer, 56; Mr Julian Oxley, Director-General, the

Guide Dogs for the Blind Associa-tion, 59; Mr Krzysztof Penderecki, composer, 64; Mr Anion Poot, for mer chairman and managing direc-tor. Philips, 68; Lord Prosser, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 63; Miss Diana Quick, actress, 51; Sir Peter Saunders, theatrical producer, 86; Sir Peter Straw son, philosopher, 78; Professor John Tarn, former Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool University, 63; Mr Nigel Tranter, novelist and historian, 88; Lt-Col George West, an Extra Equerry to the Queen, 60.

**Anniversaries** 

TODAY: Births: George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), novelist, 1819; General Charles Andre Marie-Joseph de Gaulle, French president, 1890. Deaths: Clive Staples Lewis, writer, 1963: Aldous Leonard Huxley. writer, 1963; John Fitzgerald Ken nedy, 35th US President, assassinated 1963: Anthony Burgess (John Anthony Burgess Wilson), writer, 1993. On this day: Vasco da Gama round ed the Cape of Good Hope, 1497; Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister, 1990. Today is the Feast Day of SI Cecilia or Cecily and aints Philemon and Apphia.

TOMORROW: Births: William H. Bonney (Billy the Kid), outlaw, 1859; Bons Karloff (William Henry Pratt), actor, 1887. Deaths: Richard Pratt), actor, 1887. Deather Richard Hakinyt, geographer, 1616; Dr Haw-ley Harvey Crippen, murderer, exe-cuted 1910. On this days the first pillar box was erected (at St Helier, Jersey). 1852; Dr Who was first shows by the BBC, 1963. Tomorrow is the Peast Day of St Alexander Nevsky, prince, St Amphilochius, St Clement I, pope, St Columbanus, St Felicitas, St Gregory of Girgenti and St Trudo or Trond.

Lectures

TODAY National Portrait Gallery: Jill Note-Bower, "Katharine Mansfield

#### FAITH & REASON

## A dragon the Pope has not slain

The Roman Catholic bishops of North and South America this week gathered in Rome for an unprecedented pan-American synod. Some

Vatican commentators have pronounced it the "death knell for liberation theology". len Linden is not so sure.

Liberation theology's obituary has already been written by its enemies. The fall of the European governmental systems based on Marxism turned out In be a kind of twilight of the gods for that theology," the Vatican's doctrinal watchdog, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, has declared. And the subject harely featured in dispatches from the Pope's recent visit to Brazil.

During the 1970s and 1980s it was Santa Fe, a policy group close to Prestical missionary question: "How is it posicy must begin to counter (not react to live in conditions that embody a against) liberation theology as it is denial of love, that God loves them?" utilised in Latin America by the 'liberation theology clergy." When the changing the world of the poor Catholic head of the CIA, William Casey, met with Pope John Paul II to talk about Poland, the Latin American church was on the agenda.

aftermath of Fidel Castro's guerrilla suc- in them in Latin American countries, but

tion theology conducted a propaganda campaign to project it as the bastard offspring of Christianity and Marxism, as Communist infiltration of the Church. So the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the electoral defeat of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, were together proclaimed as the last nail in liberation theology's coffin.

This at least is the Vatican's authorised version of history. The dragon is slain. The new dragoo is religious relativism, the idea that the world's religions represent different ways to God, and it does not matter much which one you choose.

What really happened is somewhat more complicated. Liberation theology grew out of the faith, struggles, sufferings and hopes of the poor. The Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutierrez, one of its founding fathers, took as international news. The Committee of his starting point the profoundly pracident Reagan, advised in 1980; "US pol-sible to tell the poor, who are forced The Christian Gospel had to be about

socially, economically and politically. The crucible in which this theology was forged was the basic Christian communities; rarely more than 2 per cent In the Cold War cootext, and in the of mass-going Catholics were involved

cess in Cuba, the opponents of libera- they were seen as inordinately threatening. They were no revolutionary cells, rather reflection on the scriptures in the light of experience was their mainstay.

By 1986 the Pope was acknowledging to the Brazilian hishops that liberatino theology was "correct and necessary", but it "must constitute a new stage - intimately connected with those that have gone before". Yet he made sure none of its advocates were consecrated as bishops. The radical Christian commitment expressed in a theology of liberation had meanwhile hecome universally known as the "option for the poor". Its spirituality and way of dning theology recognising its specific context had entered the bloodstream of the churches and had spread far beyood Latin America.

Between 1990 and 1992, 710 oew churches sprung up in Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the biggest urban conglomerations in the world; 91 per cent of them were Pentecostal. Pentecostalism, the product of a great missionary wave of evangelical religion from California, is more plausibly presented as liberation theology's oemesis. With its championing of individual advancement, the virtues of sobriety, cleanliness, punctuality and loyalty, alongside cathartic forms of worship, it offers to insert Christians smoothly into the neo-liberal economy and arm them spiritually for the hrutally competitive urban world.

It is not so much the basic Christian communities who have proved vulnerable to this assault but Catholicism as a whole. Neither liberation theologians nor conservative cardinals now have much idea how to hold oo to their congregations, other than by embracing the Pentecostalist style of worship. The combination of immediate spiritual and emotional satisfaction and the longer-term promise of the glittering prizes of advanced capitalism are irresistible. The cargo stamped 'Jesus Export USA" is the cult of the future.

Or is it? One school of thought sees Pentecostalism in Latin America as halfway house to secularity. Firstgeoeration rural Catholic, secondgeneration urban Pentecostal, thirdgeneration secular Yuppie.

Catholicism, as it has always done with its radicals who formed Religious Orders, has absorbed liberation theology, not without pain, and has been significantly influenced by it. But had the Vatican put its considerable weight behind the basic Christian communities and supported the liberation theologians, rather than working to neutralise them, Pentecostalism might not have had such an easy ride. Like political parties, divided Churches cannot expect to retain their members.

 Liberation Theology: Coming of Age?' is published by CIIR, 190a New North. Road, London N1 7BJ, price £2.50

# 27/SHARES

# Jones

See james when you want to be a see of the s

## Carlton in the spotlight as media companies move ahead

MARKET REPORT



S2 week High Low Stock

Banks, Retail

900.0 +4.00 1.6 72 703
78207 +4.00 = 223
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782.00 +8.00 2.7 8.3 004
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867.50 +7.00 2.7 8.3 004
780.01 -1.00 = 330
868.00 +6.00 2.7 8.3 004
688.00 +6.00 2.7 8.3 570
904.00 +7.50 4.1 6.6 660
78.00 +3.00 2.7 2.3 644
88.00 = 25 2.8 2.8 78.00
78.00 +3.00 2.7 2.3 44

CATHY NEWMAN

It has not been a good year for a move is bound to hit bullscyc. News & Media closed up 21p rosy for Allied Colloids, the spe-expecting the shares to fall drums on Thursday after Ion-the media contact and the shares to fall from favour a railing. munications has managed to outperform its peers, it has Carlton's share price. failed to keep pace with the

FTSE All Share index. yesterday that, at long last, market-makers began to think the stock was looking cheap. Merrill Lynch was one broker British Digital Broadcasting, making positive noises, and suggesting it was at least 15 per cent undervalued when it was languishing around the 450p mark. Carlton closed up 20p at 478p, and more than 4.23 mil-

tion shares changed hands. There may be another reason for Carlton's renaissance. Analysts are suggesting that the company may be prepared in announce a share buyback when it unveils results shortly.

certain points Carlton Com- a later stage, in the short-term it would da wonders far

Another observer was less receptive to the idea, saying that So it was hardly surprising there were far more creative uses of cash, especially with the onset of digital television next year. Carlton owns half of which won the licences to broadcast digital terrestrial tele- in the money yesterday. Stocks vision earlier this year. Grana-

Thursday's results presentatioo the media and leisure close at £15.67. group was remarkably bullish. That may have helped Carlton

along the way yesterday. Carlton was not the only As one City watcher pointed Footsie media company to advice from SBC Warburg. out yesterday, announcing such move no up yesterday. United

the media sector, and while at as even if it was abandoned at at 755p; BSkyB jumped 14p to 425p; Pearson notched up 24p to 830p and EMI leapt 11p to

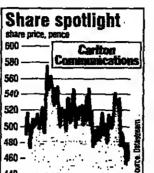
> Analysts suggested that, as the year draws to a close, fund managers are reassessing the sector, and may be switching out of over-performers like banks, and into underperformers like

Financials were nevertheless with Far Eastern influences da Group owns the other half. saw a fair share of activity af-Granada has for a long time ter the Nikkei's gains on Thursbeen lukewarm on the day night. HSBC responded to prospects far BDB, but at Hong Kong's 5 per cent surge overnight and added 67p to

> Meanwhile Standard Chartered, one of the best Footsie performers, ended 36p better nff at 72Sp, encouraged by add Things were not looking so

ciality chemicals group which on Thursday confirmed market rumours that it had had a bid approach. However, Allied issucd a statement just minutes before close of trading last nf Trade and Industry that

night saying the talks had been now closed. The company topped the Footsic 250 fallers. down 13.5p at 126p. Dealers are



again when trading resumes on

RJB was another secondline casualty, after reported warnings from the Department there would be cutbacks in the terminated and the matter was coal industry. It dropped 7.5p to 150p. Stagecoach could not get into gear either, after a Kleinwort Benson sell note. It closed down 23.5p at 817.5p. ·

Utility stocks were feeling flush, ahead of a stream of TAKING STOCK

Gainsborough Group, the Ofex-quoted company which owns office suites, suspended dealings in its shares pending a cash-raising annou next week. The company will use proceeds from a rights issue to fund a new business centre. Its shares were suspended at 18p. The company reported a pre-tax loss in the year to the end of March of £81,978.

Ashtead Group, the plant and machinery hire company, shed 1.5p to close at 175p after the Railways Pension Funds sold 7.5 million shares. Ashtead has recently been outperforming the sector by 40 per cent, so the pension fund may have decided it was time to take profits. In Angust, Ashtead bought Sheriff Holdings, one of its rivals, for £39.4m, adding 51 outlets to

Ashtead's 153 depot network.

wanted stock, up 4p to 293p results next week. Thames Waafter presentations to analysts ter jumped 40p to 935p; Wesand institutions this week on its sex Water added 17.5p to 507p; hotel business. Footsie was not only sup-Yorkshire Water surged 14.5p ported by the Asian markets tn 484.5p, and United Utilities ticked up 24p to 765p. Analysts overnight on Thursday, but also by a strong opening yespointed out that defensive, terday afternooo on Wall non-overseas stocks such as Street. The index appears to be utilioes continued to be atheading far the 5,000 mark tractive as long as the pound reagain. It closed up 77.4 points mained strong. Colt Telecom - in the dolat a day-high of 4,985.8.

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ica's fall from favour - railied

after announcing plans to raise

£98.3m through a share offer at

585p. The group ended up

by 39p to £13.56 on the back of

positive noises from brokers, in

particular Goldman Sachs.

Glazo said yesterday that the

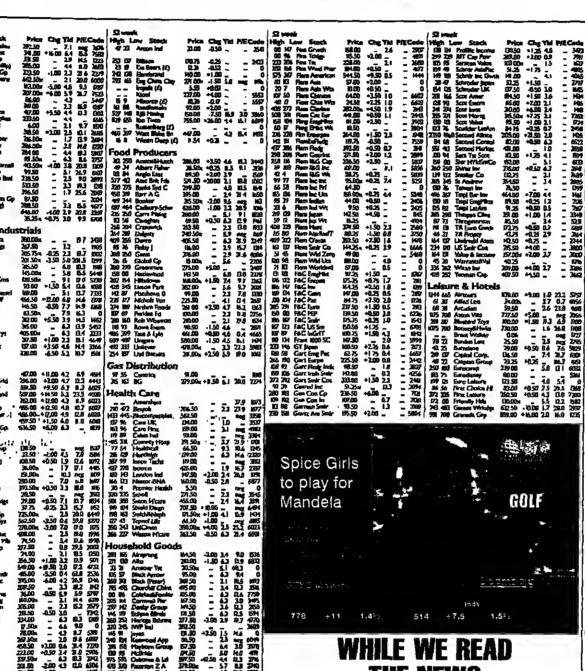
EU had moved to approve

Combivir, its anti-HIV drug.

Ladbroke was another

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@ INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Redland in £800m tiles sale to repel hostile bidder

Redland is expected to announce next week the sale of its majority stake in RBB, the European roof tiles business, to the subsidiary's German family shareholders for around £800m. Andrew Yates reports on the building group's desperate attempt to stave off a £1.7bn hostile bid from Lafarge,

the French construction giant.

Redland is believed to be close to concluding a deal which will see it sell its 56.5 per cent in RBB to the Braas family, who already own the minority shareholding in the business. It hopes to raise at least £800m from the deal. Redland will then return most of the proceeds to shareholders.

The deal could be announced before next Wednesday, the day by which Redland has to publish its final defence document aimed at persuading shareholders to repel Lafarge's unwanted bid.

St Gobain, the French building group which has been advised by the NM Rothschild merchant bank, is understood to have been interested in acquiring RBB. However, after weeks of intense negotiations, Redland is understood to have chosen to side with the German family shareholders.

The move could pave the way for a complete break op of the troubled British huilding materials group. Redland is already in talks with rivals about selling off some or all of its US and European aggregates businesses. Although these talks are at an early stage, Redland is thought to be confident that it can achieve more disposals.

Lafarge has made a 320p a share cash offer for Redland, which values the company at nearly £1.7bn. Redland intends to try and convince investors in its defence document that the proceeds from the sale of RBB, together with the value of the remaining business are worth more than the 320p per share on offer.

to signal the end of the hid battle. Some a price of 634p in 1994.

analysts estimate that the RBB stake is worth more than £1bn. Lafarge is likely argue that Redland has sold the business cheaply to get a quick sale in order to scotch the French group's takeover. Some of the disposal proceeds will also be eaten up by the capital gains tax Redland will be forced to pay on completion of the sale.

City observers believe that Lafarge will mount a concerted campaign to convince Redland's shareholders to accept a cashin-hand offer rather than wait to receive the proceeds of the disposal programme. It will be forced to raise its offer, however, if it cannot muster enough support to block the sale of the RBB stake. Lafarge has until 3 December to make a higher offer. Shareholders must decide on the takeover by 17 December.

Redland has been forced to break itself in the absence of a "white knight" coming to its rescue and launching an agreed bid. One building analyst said: "Redland needed to pull something out of the hat. After a dreadful performance, the Lafarge bid put them up against it. The management simply could not have got away with promising jam tomorrow any more."

Redland's decision to sell RBB throws the future of Robert Napier, the group's embattled chief executive, into doubt. He is understood to have been instrumental in negotiating a deal with Helga Bruhn-Braas, the Braas family representative who resigned from Redland's board to concentrate on making a bid for the roof tile husiness.

However, Mr Napier has presided over Redland's share price collapse over the last few years and sources suggest be may have to step down.

Redland has been dogged by poor European construction markets, particularly the alarming slump in the German building industry which had enjoyed years of rapid expansion. It has also soffered from the legacy of paying way over the odds for the £1bn acquisition of Steetley, the Midland brickmaker.

Profit warning followed profit warning and, before the Lafarge approach, the However, Redland's move is unlikely shares fell to a low of 220p, compared to



## Bike group's float runs into trouble

The floration of Trialtir, the gra hadred by the athlete Carl Levis (left) that has developed a revolutionary new mountain bile, has suffered a puncture. Plans to float on the Alternative Investment Market wer launched by Mr Lewis, winner of pine Olympic gold medals, in a fautare of publicity in August. Then the group said it planned to float within a month. Almost two months later it has still failed to come to the market

David Lewis, of the Lumley Lewis public relations firm which handled the float announcement, said yesterday he had only been employ on an ad boc basis and had not heard from Trigitir since the launch. "I have no idea when they plan to float. You know as much as me."

Ray Harris, Trialtir's finance director, acknowledged there had been a "few hiccups". He said: "Things are still proceeding but we are behind schedule. There is nothing wrong with the business. We have just had some technical difficulties. There may be some more new developments in the next few weeks." He declined to put a new timetable on the flotation.

The group had hoped to raise find by issuing new shares, valuing the ny at £8m. Cheviot Capital is organising the share placing.

- Andrew Yoles

Photograph: Adrian Denias

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## Beckett to issue January verdict on US bid for Eastern

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, is not expected to deliver her ruling on the bid by PacifiCorp of the US for Eastern, Britain's biggest regional electricity company, until next January at the earliest.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission last night sent its report on Pacifi-Corp's £3.7bn bid for Eastern's parent company, Energy Group, to Mrs Beckett. She is expected to take at least four to six weeks to study the report before deciding whether to allow the bid through and, if 'so; on what conditions.

The bid was referred to the MMC in August by Mrs Beckett because of her con-

cerns over whether it would be possible to maintain adequate regulatory control over Energy Group once it was in the hands of a large overseas utility.

Her ruling will have important repercussions for the electricity industry as a whole since seven other regional electricity companies are already under US ownership. It will also give a clue as to the Government's attitude towards vertical integration in the electricity industry. As well as being the country's largest electricity supplier with 3 million customers, Eastern is Britain's fourth biggest electricity generator with 10 per cent of the market.

PacifiCorp has argued that the deal

should be waved through without restrictions because it raises no competition issues.

However, there is known to have been some concern about the funding of the bid and the ability of the regulator, Offer, to ensure that the UK electricity business is properly ring-fenced. The combined business would have debts of some \$12bn (£7bn), financed partly through junk bonds.

Depending on what conditions were imposed, PacifiCorp could seek to renegotiate the price. Some analysts have suggested it might have to pay more. However, Fred Buckman, PacifiCorp's chief executive, has

argued that the price may have to fall. Since the deal was announced in June the regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild. has announced new price curbs which will further reduce domestic bills by 13 per cent over the next two years.

Energy Group shares are trading at 636.5p compared with the 695.5p that gracificorp's bid valued them at in June. PowerGen, the third biggest generator

with a market share of 19 per cent, is pressing the Government to be allowed to buy a REC after being blocked by the previous administration from acquiring Midlands Electricity. At least two US owned RECS - Seebound 2005 South WEST Electricity - are known to be on the market.

## US Justice Department tries to nail Microsoft with e-mail

The US justice Department yesterday produced new evidence in an effort to bolster its anti-trust case against the computer giant, Microsoft. Mury Dejevsky in Washington reports on progress of the lawsuit.

The new evidence cited by the Justice Department is an internal Microsoft e-mail dating from 1996. It was sent by Jim Allchin, a company executive,

who asked how the company could possibly gain a bigger market share for its Internet Emplorer software - the Internet browser that was then losing out to a rival product from Netscape Communications.

Mr Allchin is quoted as saying: "My conclusion is that we must leverage Windows more. Treating IE [Internet Explorer] as just an add-on to Windows which is crossplatform is losing our biggest advantage - Windows market share."

The memo appears to support the US government's case that Microsoft threatened to

withhold its products from computer manufacturers who would not incorporate Internet Explorer with Windows software.

The record of the e-mail was among new papers filed by the Justice Department with the US District Court in Washington late on Thursday. The department's anti-trust divisioo asked the judge for a quick ruling that Microsoft broke the terms of a two-year old Federal Court order designed to prevent Microsoft's domination of the computer software mar-

ket becoming a mocopoly. Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman, said he had not vet

reviewed the latest evidence supplied by the Justice Department, but implied that it had misinterpreted the e-mail. The communication proved only that an executive had made a proposal. It did not

prove that using the leverage of Windows to squeeze out other Internet browsers had been eveo considered, let alone made company policy. In its latest filing, the Justice

Department also took issue with Microsoft's earlier defence. Soon after receiving notice that it was being sued for breaching the terms of a 1995 court order. Microsoft insisted that the court order specifically allowed it to develop "integrated software" --software that would be incorporated into computers before sale to make up a complete hardware/software package.

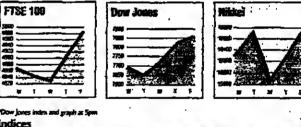
The new government papers accuse Microsoft of using the court order retrospectively. "The basic fallacy in Microsoft's position," it says, "is that it confuses ... the court order's prohibition on coercive marketing practices with the assurance of the proviso that Microsoft will be free to develop new, integrated products."

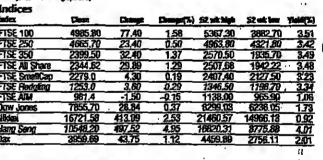
In other words, Microsoft was free to develop new

software integrated into and sold with its Windows programme, but this did not include the browser. Microsoft says that it did.

For the US government, the suit against Microsoft is a crucial test of its power to enforce regulation. It is a pioneering attempt to preserve an element of competition in the multi-billion dollar new technology market, where Microsoft Windows has, in effect, become the world standard and any company supplying another system finds it hard to gain even a toehold

#### STOCK MARKETS





#### **UBS** reveals how it lost £90m in 'one-off' error

Union Bank of Switzerland yesterday spelt out how it lost almost £100m in equity derivatives trading. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a trading débacle that has already claimed four scalps this week.

UBS revealed for the first time vesterday the extent of the losses suffered in its equity derivatives business. It said the losses in the first half of this year were SFr200m (£90m), but added that the incident was a "one off".

Werner Bonadurer, head of UBS's trading and sales and risk management services, said: "I am very confident this was a one-off event. Our controlling structure is very good." Mr Bonadurer said the losses in the first half were caused by valuation adjustments due to a change in UK tax laws and by a "calculation error" in one of its options pricing models that led to increased hedging costs.

UBS had left markets guessing earlier this year when its first half report to shareholders said

"unsatisfactory performance" but failed to quantify the problem. The bank said it was mov-

ing to lessen the chances of any repeat of the affair by centralising proprietary trading in equities.

The derivatives losses have claimed the jobs of three traders at the bank's New York office. In addition, Hans-Peter Bauer, the bank's head of fixed income, currencies and derivatives, has replaced Ramy Goldstein in charge of the London derivatives operation.

The scant details yesterday came as UBS announced an upbeat forecast for its full-year performance but disappointed investors by failing to announce a long-rumoured "blockbuster" takeover deal.

Speaking at the bank's annual autumn conference. Mathis Cabiallavetta, chief executive, said the bank had been frustrated in its bid for a big takeover in asset management and private banking services. "The time was not right for the major acquisition which many people expected," he said. He added that UBS had studied a range of opportunities includ-

equity derivatives turned in an ing Scudder Stevens & Clark. the US asset manager snapped up by insurer Zurich Group in June. But it had decided not to pursue any of them.

Analysts said the comments could be interpreted as saying that UBS had abandoned, for oow, ambitions of a big deal.

The bank, however, yesterday did announce a smaller deal to buy Alfi Gestion, the French asset manager, for Fr358m (£36.5m). Alfi Gestion has 80 staff and manages assets of around Fr30bn. The size of the deal disap-

pointed analysts who had been hoping for a statement on the Liechtenstein-based LGT which has said it is selling its global asset management business, with \$65bn in client funds, in order to concentrate on private banking. "We had expected something on LGT and there was all this talk of Merrill Lynch and they go and buy a French hou-

tique," one trader said. Mr Cabiallavetta said that trading results in the first nine months were 8 per cent higher than last year. He forecast that UBS would post net profits of around SFr3.2bn for the full year. That would compare with a SFr348m loss last year.

#### Cider makers' directors pressed for time

Merrydown, the troubled cider group, has been forced to delay the announcement of its financial results due to an embarrassing administrative error.

The company had informed the Stock Exchange that it planned to announce its interim results for the six months to 30 September on Mooday. Ludgate, the group's City public relations advisers, also sent letter to analysts and journalists inviting them to briefings on

the same date. However, the group's directors, including Richard Purdey, chairman, Paul Millman, managing director, and Mike Dinnis, finance director, had failed to check their diaries and realised they could not all

There were red faces all round yesterday as Merrydown was forced to announce to the Stock Exchange that it would not unveil its figures until the following week on 2 December.

attend the meetings on that day.

Mr Purdey said: "It was a cock up with our diaries on the day." A spokeswoman for the group from Ludgate added: There is nothing sinister going

The mistake could not have come at a worse time for Merrydown, which has been rocked by falling sales of the controversial Two Dogs lemonade in the wake of a public outcry against alcopops and intense competition from other

Merrydown's shares closed at a 15-year low yesterday, falling 1p to 50p. The share price has plummeted from 112.5p earlier this year and more than 400p in the early

A drinks analyst said: "It has been a catalogue of disasters at Merrydown and this will not help their cause." And one industry observer

quipped: "This lot would have trouble pressing their trousers let alone pressing apples." Merrydown has embarked

on a management shake-out as part of a £1.5m cost cutting program announced this summer designed to restore its flagging

#### Penny share seller fined a record £350,000

City regulators yesterday dealt out a record fine for a company engaged in selling penny shares. It is the fourth substantial fine for financial advisers selling stocks with low share prices.

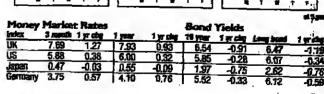
pay costs of £69,175. In one of its last acts as a Fimbra said the firm had working regulator, Fimbra, sold penny shares without a reason to think its clients would which regulated independent fibenefit from buying the shares. nancial advisers until July 1994, levied a fine of £350,000 against It failed to find out basic in-London Corporate Securities of formation about its clients, formally de-recognised las 82 Great Eastern Street, London. failed to explain the risks of buy-

The firm, which has never ing penny shares and failed to been registered to do business supervise its staff. under the current regulator, the Personal Investment Au-

Since April, two other firms dealing in penny shares - Park thority, was also ordered to Equity Services of Tunbridge Wells and City Equities of London - have each been fined £250,000.

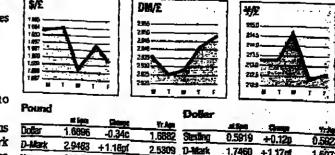
London-based Danesfiel securities was fined £75,00 last month by Fimbra, which we







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JEREMY WARNER ON WHY THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND MIGHT BE A WOMAN

## A Governess for the Old Lady? Surely not!

Here's an intriguing possibility. The next for do in power? We now know the answer of monetary policy, but on the whole, every-story about changes in the constituency of one's happy. Take away responsibility for the Court of the Bank of England played a woman. I've no inside track on this but I do know that the idea is regarded as an appealing one by Treasury ministers, including the Chancellor. For the time being, the race fur the Governorship is still wide open. Eddie George, the present incumbent, has won plenty of backing for his campaign for a second term, but his positinn is still far from assured.

The possibility, floated in the summer, that he might be given an extra half term of two to three years when his contract expires in July, as a compromise solution between the case for continuity and the case for change, seems to have gone away, and it's now all or nothing. What does seem clear is that the undisputed success of the Government's decision to grant limited independence to the Bank of England has made the task of selling the case for change, if that's what the Chancellor wants to do, that much easier than it was six months ago.

The new Government desperately needed Eddie George when it swept into power, despite the overwhelming size of its majority. Eddie could provide continuity and assurance to markets in a way that the comparatively unknown Gordon Brown

Mr Brown had said a lot of reassuring things while in opposition, but what would tu that question and it is that he's made of rather sterner stuff than his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke. Mr Brown no longer has n problem with the markets. His need for Eddie George is therefore diminished.

Furthermore, the Chancellor's need for continuity is also now much reduced. The Bank's position and role in the economy has been so profoundly changed over the last six months that it might now be a positive advantage to change the skipper as well. Responsibility for banking supervision has been handed to the Financial Services Authority, so that traditionally very large part of the Governor's job, which can be broadly described as playing God in the City, has gone.

Giving the Bank of England control over interest rate decisions has worked in exactly the way intended. Since the election, interest rates have gone up five times, or 1.25 per cent in total, but the Chancellor has had to make only one of these decisions, the first. Blame for an unpopular but necessary policy is thus deflected on to the Bank, and the Chancellor appears, if not quite the warm and cuddly person he might like to be seen as, certainly unblemished by it all.

There have been one or two mutterings from Old Labour, expressed unattributably through the columns of The Guardian, about the idiocy of ceding political control

one's happy. Take away responsibility for difficult decisions from ministers and place it with a group of experts and nobody complains (oo much, seems to the lesson.

So the Chancellor could, if he wanted, now accomplish a change of Governor without upsetting the forces of international and domestic capital - assuming he appoints somebody suitable, that is.

As always, there is another side to the argument. The case for keeping Eddie George is this. If Gordon Brown gets his way, there will be a referendum soon after the next election to take us into the single European currency. Mr George is already known, well liked and respected in the clubhable world of European central bankers, and would make an obvious choice for the task of defending Britain's corner in preparations for the new European Central Bank while our formal position remains oo hold. By the time Britain gets its automatic position as a member of EMU on the court of the ECB and its inner executive committee, Mr George's second term would have expired.

So which is it to be? Take the money or open the box? By inclination, the Government would tend towards change. It is easy to forget that Mr Brown still has a political constituency to play to, as well as the capital markets. For evidence of these very different audiences, just look at the way the

the Court of the Bank of England played in two national newspapers this week.

Because of the way contracts are expiring and the creation of new non executive positions on the Court, the Chancellor will have seven appointments to make this spring. This was written up in The Guardian as a grand plan from the Chancellor to pack the Court with his own people. If you are a Guardian reader, this must have seemed like a highly satisfactory outcome. Trade unionists, women, and regional representatives, will all get guaranteed positions on

the Court. The next day, the same story was writ-ten up in *The Daily Telegraph* with an en-tirely different spin. The *Telegraph* reported that the Chancellor intended to reappoint all Court members whose contracts did not expire, in order to provide continuity. The effect of this will be that three-quarters of the existing Court survive. If you are a Telegraph reader, this must have seemed an equally satisfactory outcome. Both versions of the story are correct. Mr Brown accomplishes change and continuity, all at the same time.

The decision on the governorship is obviously a tougher call, but my guess is that the Chancellor will want to try the same trick. He'll want to play to the gallery by changing the governor, and he'll attempt to play to the City by making the choice someooe obviously acceptable. It is important to get the decision right, because even after we join the single currency, this is going to remain a highly inflnential

The governor will be Britain's representative on the ECB, where he/she will be an entirely free agent. Moreover, because of the City's position as Europe's leading financial centre, the Bank of England ought to rise above that of other agency central banks to a status of real importance in monitoring and providing financial stability in capital markets.

Appointing a woman might achieve the double purpose of establishing the Chancellor's "right on" credentials and clearing out a few dusty old Bank of England cobwebs all at the same time. Who might square this circle? Two obvious candidates -Baroness Hogg, a former head of the Number 10 Policy Unit under John Major, and Ruth Lea, chief economist at the Institute of Directors - are probably hoth too much Tory grandees and Eurosceptie to be considered. Carol Galley, chief executive of Mercury Asset Management, may be too associated with City fat cattery to be acceptable, even if she wanted to do it. And Rachel Lomax, Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, has already turned down an offer of one of the deputy governorships. Who knows? Eddie may end up with the prize after all, if only by default.

## Korea swallows its pride and asks IMF for help

South Korea bit the bullet yesterday, and appealed to the International Monetary Fund for an emergency loan to end its financial crisis. The prospect of an international rescue package – the third in Asia this year - boosted the region's financial markets.

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Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo and Diane Coyle in London weigh up the IMF's chances of ending the Asian turmoil.

The Seoul stock exchange surged by 3.6 per cent and the Korean won, which has lost more than 20 per cent of its value since the beginning of the year, strengthened from 1139 to 1065 against the dollar after a junior finance minister announced that the government bad finally decided to seek financial support from the IMF. South Korea has requested \$20bn (£12bn) in the form of a stand-by credit.

Lim Chang Yuel, the newly appointed minister of finance and economy, said: "The IMF loan is not a bail-out loan. It's a stand-by credit. It is backing up the liquidity shortage. An IMF loan has the advantage of stabilising the market quickly."

After a meeting in Seoul with Stanley Fischer, deputy director of the IMF, Mr Lim said that the amount would be enough to resolve the "difficulties" in the foreign exchange market. But financial market analysts were sceptical, as the country's short-term foreign

currency deht is thought to amount to around \$70bo with perhaps \$20bn-\$30bn falling due before the end of this year.

South Korea's difficulties have become critical in the last few days, as the plunge in its currency, coming after an extended economic slowdown, bas raised anxieties among international banks about the ability of Korean companies to pay their debts. Banks in Japan, which have already begun failing under the weight of bad loans, have become particularly reluctant to extend credit to Korea.

When similar currency crises hit Thailand and Indonesia over the summer, they received loans from the IMF, other international institutions and foreign governments, including Japan. The IMF has put up \$3.9bn of a \$17.2bn loans package for Thailand and \$10bn of a \$40bn package for Indonesia.

The loans will be drawn as needed by the authorities in each country to meet the credit needs of the domestic banking system. But assistance bas been made conditional on tough economie austerity programmes and on restructuring the ailing banking system.

Although no details of the terms of the IMF "conditionality" in Korea's case have been released, it will be a more complicated deal because of the scale of the problem and the political sensitivities of the Koreans. As the world's eleventh biggest economy, Seoul's problems dwarf those of the South-east Asian countries where the currency contagion first incubated

in the early summer. The government's secrecy makes the extent of its problems difficult to judge, but it seems likely that the IMF will even-

tually be called upon to organise its biggest rescue package ever. The Mexican rescue package in 1995 amounted to a stand-by credit of \$50bn, although it was not fully drawn down.

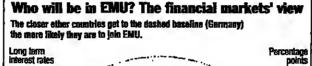
Some estimates of Korea's needs range as high as \$100bn. almost twice the combined amount bestowed upon Thailand and Indonesia, and even the least alarmist reckon some \$40bn will be necessary to reassure the markets. This is deeply unpalatable

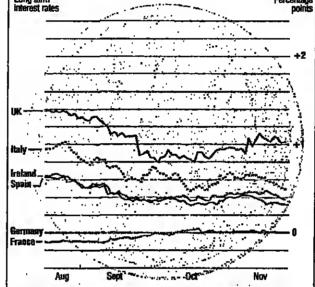
many Koreans, who pride themselves on their forced march from division and civil war in the 1950s to the top ranks of the industrialised nations. A year ago, the country was admitted to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, the "rich nations' club" based in Paris.

As a newly developed nation. Korea is not automatically entitled to the same kind of loans as Indonesia and, until a few days ago, Korean officials were haughtily dismissing the very idea of relying on international charity as unthinkable. They would prefer to receive

help from individual governments, and the last few days have seen an intensive, and unsuccessful, behind-the-scenes effort to lobby the US and Japan. Both countries, along with Australia, insist that they will co-operate only as part of an IMF-led effort.

The problem for the Korean government is that the IMF's stringent conditions will prove domestically unpopular. When the IMF regime comes into place, bankruptcies of weak South Korean companies will become the daily event," said Lee Seung Yong, an analyst at Shinhan Securities in Seoul yesterday.





TOWARDS EMU: If the fine moves towards the German base fine it means compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, If they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher initiation, and that there is a rick of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so

#### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Nikko Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amre, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Saloman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

| Probability EMU never happens:  | 2%  | (2% last week) |
|---------------------------------|-----|----------------|
|                                 |     |                |
| Probability EMU is delayed:     | 15% | (15% last week |
| Probability EMU starts on time: | 83% | (83% last week |

#### **EMU** still on course for 1999

With the attention of the markets distracted by developments in the Far East, The Independent's panel of experts said European monetary union remained firmly on course to meet its start date of 1 January 1999.

The experts said little news of any significance had happened in Europe this week to cause any concerns about EMU's timing, and also described as predictable the comments made yesterday by Lord Simon that the UK could join from 2002.

Lord Simoo, former chairman of British Petroleum who was appointed by the Governpean competitiveness, said there was no realistic chance of Britain joining monetary union before the end of the current parliament.

He said the business community should still prepare now for a single currency and be ready for the UK to join carly in the next parliament.

Michael Lewis, economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "We don't feel Lord Simon has actually said anything different to the Government's position. They are still saying not in the lifetime of this parliament."

-Andrew Verity

#### Job cuts follow merger of Maid and Knight-Ridder

Dialog Corporation, the company formed by the £285m merger of Maid and Knight-Ridder Information, is to cut 340 jobs just a few weeks after completing the deal. Dialog said the combined workforce of the company would fall by 24 per cent to 1,060 across all areas of the former KRI and Maid businesses.

Dan Wagner, who heads the group, said be was "comfortable" that the restructuring had achieved the majority of the first round of projected merger cost savings. The first stage would secure just over £30m of savings and the second stage will add a further £5m-£7m of efficiencies in the next few years.

#### French store bid off

Promodes, the French supermarket group, has decided to cancel its takeover bid for Rallye, its rival after it failed to win a majority stake. Promodes had reserved the right to withdraw its bid if acceptance was less than 50.1 per cent, it said. Promodes' bid was accepted by holders of just 10.55 per cent of Rallye's capital. Promodes launched the bid for Rallye on 1 September, at the same time as its bid for Casino. It was ring Fr420 for Rallye ordinary shares and its convertible bonds.

#### Johnson Fry sounds warning

Johnson Fry Holdings, the financial services group, warned yesterday that its results for the year to 31 December were likely to fall significantly below market expectations and will result in a substantial loss before exceptional items for the year. The shares plunged by 31.5p to 85p. The loss will result mainly from poor sales and margins, particularly in the second half of the year, from the financial products division, which has now been closed, as well as the write-off of £800,000 of capitalised expenditure on software development, the company said. It added that barring unforeseen circumstances. it would pay an unchanged final dividend of 2p per share.

#### Osborne & Little trade slow

Osborne & Little, the fabrics and wallcoverings group issued a warning yesterday saying that trade in the UK had slowed in the early weeks of its second half. However, the group said it did not expect the slowdown to materially affect the group's profits for the full year. First balf profits increased by 9 per

#### Standard buys stake

Standard Chartered yesterday succeeded in buying a 67 per cent stake of Banco Exterior de los Andes y de Espana, the regional South American bank, for about \$164m (£97m) in an auction. Extebandes shareholders include state banks from Spain, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia. Venezuela's privatisation body, the Venezuelan Investment Fund, did not sell its 32.7 per cent stake in the bank. "We're keeping that as an investment," one of the fund's officials said. The base price for the auction of the 67 per cent stake, in which Banque Nationale de Paris also bid, was \$170m for the whole hank.

#### Colt Telecom raises £190m for expansion

The fast growing business telecoms operator, Colt Telecom. yesterday raised a further £190m to finance the expansion of its network into five more

cities on the Continent. Colt, which began operations in London four years ago, is raising £98m by way of a secondary share offering and £90m through two further debt issues. This brings total funding since 1993 to £400m.

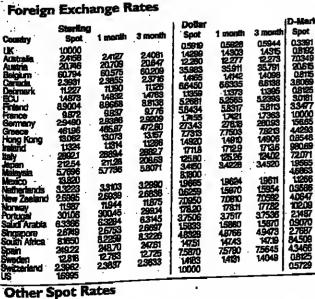
The company is currently providing local telecoms services in London, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Paris through digital fibre-optic networks. The expansion will take it into Brussels, Zurich, Milan and two other cities chosen from Dusseldorf,

Stuttgart or Amsterdam. Colt specialises in businessto-business telecoms, targeting the high-value end of the market, such as high bandwidth video, data and Internet transmission. The business was founded by the giant US mutual fund group, Fidelity, which

began a similar operation in the North American market in the late 1980s and then decided to export the concept to Europe. Colt now has 1,000 cus-

tomers including Reuters, The London Stock Exchange, the Royal Mail, Siemens, Dresdner Bank and Deutsche Bank.

The new shares are being issued at 585p compared with last night's closing price of 598.5p and will give Colt a market capitalisation of about £600m. -Michael Harrison



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# 30/THE BIG PICTURE



Bear essentials: Four teddies sitting on display at the Christmas Collectors' Auction yesterday at Saffron Walden Auctions, in Essex. The hundreds of lots included all kinds of toys - from Victorian dolls and clockwork train sets, James Bond Aston Martin model cars (with the little driver intact), and these French and German teddy bears. The photograph, by Brian Harris, was taken with a 35mm lens, at 1/60th of a second, at 12, on Fuji 800 ASA film.

# The Royal Opera 2 for I ticket offer Save up to £75

The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to experience the opera. In association with The Royal Opera we are offering you 2 tickets for the price of I to the Autumn and Winter 1997/98 season. You can choose to see any of three productions - The Merry Widow, The Barber of Seville and Paul Bunyan all showing at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

**How to Qualify** 

For each 2 for 1 ticket application simply collect 3 tokens from the Independent and Independent on Sunday (tokens will be printed every day until Friday 28 November) and telephone The Royal Opera House box office on either 0171 304 4000 or 0171 379 5399(lines are open between 10am and 7pm)identifying yourself as an Independent reader. If paying by credit card you will be asked to hand in your tokens when you collect your tickets. If paying by cheque please enclose your three tokens (you will be advised of the address when booking). You may apply twice for the offer, collecting 3 tokens per application.



#### Paul Bunyan

Offer available 10 II 13 I5 I7 December Ticket Prices: £48.50, £39, £36, £32, £18.50

Paul Bunyan is an American folk hero of gigantic height who became the greatest lumberjack in history, or so legend says. His work sites, and his fights, created geographical wonders like the Grand Canyon and the Rockies. These tall stories about a new country appealed to two young Englishmen in exile in wartime America - Benjamin Britten and the poet W. H. Auden.

Bunyan's adventures are an allegory of the development of virgin North America in the pioneer days. Auden loved both Shakespeare's Prospero and the Christian God. His Bunyan (who speaks but never appears) is both of these, with a touch of Moses thrown in. There's rich comedy too, as Auden writes roles for trees, geese, dogs, cats, bicycling boys and tacitum Swedish log-

Paul Bunyan was a first opera for Britten, but it's no early work. The music has all the range of Anden's witty verse and Bunyan's multi-national workforce. You hear an American blues alongside parodies of 19th-century Italian opera and G & S. There's a stirring role for the chorus. And the central battle between intellectual Johnny Inkslinger (the brains of Bunyan's camp) and foreman Hel Helson (the brawn) clearly looks forward to Peter Grimes - just four years in the future.



The Merry Widow

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

### The Royal Opera

#### The Merry Widow

Offer available 31 December 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 January Ticket prices: £65, £58, £56, £51, £30

Like The Barber of Seville, The Merry Widow is a first. Most opcrettas are about sex and money, but few as provocatively as Lehar's. The story takes place in embassy circles in turn of the century Paris. It discusses the affairs of a romantic little princedom fit to rival Rudolf Rassendyl's Ruritania in The Prisoner of Zenda (book and operetta are near contemporaries). Its music is awash with gorgeous tunes - and wonderful dances - evoking middle-European folklore, written with the skill of a Richard Strauss or Puccini (more contemporaries). The very word 'operetta' means escapism - usu-

But what's best about the Widow is its realism. Its heroine has been married before for all the worst reasons - on the rebound from an unhappy affair, and for money. Its hero met the heroine before and rejected her for all the worst reasons - family pressure, and money - and then went off on a seriously naughty bender in Paris. He loves her, but can't bring himself to say it. Meanwhile, everyone else in sight is bending over backwards to be unfaithful. It's realistic, it's funny and it's sad. This perfect theatrical combination gave Lehar a monster hit in Vienna, Paris, London and New York.

#### The Barber of Seville

Offer available on 7 10 12 14 February Ticket prices: £75, £66, £62, £57, £33.

The Barber of Seville is the first modern comic opera. Rossimi was the star composer of an era when opera moved out of aristocratic circles into boulevard theatres. His comic skill was praised by Beethoven and imitated by Schubert . He helieved his audiences would laugh at what they could recognise. He chose a hit French play by Beaumarchais, a controversial writer whose work had scandalised the old order in France before the Revolution.

In this play, the professional classes and the young outsmart the aristocracy and the old. Rossini kept the play's title, plot, scenes and sharpest lines. Unusual - because comic operas often sweeten their subject beyond recognition. Rossini avoided this cliche. He has the cunning young girl, the greedy old lecher who wants to marry her, the wily servant with the keys to the house and the 'poor' young man hanging around who's really a prince. They're classic characters from commedia dell'arte who have been around from Shakespeare to television sitcom. Rossini's music defines all of them without caricature and makes them available to any age.

#### Terms and Conditions

To qualify for the offer applicants must collect three differently numbered tokens. Tokens are published every day between November 22 and November 28. Only the tokens printed in The Independent and Independent on Sunday are valid. Photocopies or any other reproductions will not be accepted. The offer is for 2 tickets for the price of 1 for each application is for 2 tickers for the price of 1 for each apparentum. Each set of three tokens collected allows you to take advantage of the 2 for 1 offer. The free ticket may only have a value equal to or less than the purchased ticket. This offer is only valid for the three productions mentioned above. The Royal Opera House standard terms and conditions of purchose apply to this offer. The offer is subject to availability. No cash alternitives will be accepted. The promoters at The Independent and The Royal Opera House.



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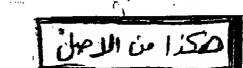
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# TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



Dividing lines the Danube separates Budapest's two halves, with the Westminsteresque parliament building on the Pest side serving as something of a monument to the grand days of the Austro-Hungarian empire Photographs: G Helier/RHPL

## Slicing through the city of cakes

Budapest is steeped in turn-of-thecentury ambience and populated by stout citizens. Yet it does not demand heavy-duty sightseeing. Cathy Packe plunges into a city plump with nostalgia.

Thanks to the efforts of Johann Strauss and his family, the Danube has always been associated with Vienna. Strange, this, since there the river is little more than a broad, murky stream trickling through an onter suburb. Yet in Budapest it defines and divides the city, linking this geographical centre of Europe with east and west.

Unlike the other great Habsburg cities of Vienna and Prague, Budapest is not a place where there is any real need for serious sightseeing; much of the considerable charm of the city is in its atmosphere. You can see most of the main buildings from the river, and this is the best way to get acquainted with the layout of the city.

Boats leave regularly from Vigado square, on the Pest side of the river between the Chain and Elizabeth bridges. Although a timetable of sorts exists, they seem to operate on a shuttle basis: when a boat is full it sets off, and another one appears to take the remaining passengers. Sightseeing trips, which go up the river and back again, never leaving the city limits, take about an hour and a half, but if you have the time, a far more rewarding trip - and better value for money - is to go north as far as Szentendre or Visegrad.

As the boat heads through the city, you can see the main landmarks on the skyline; on the Pest. side, the Parliament building, a Westminsteresque monument to the grandest days of the Austro-Hungarian empire. On the opposite bank, perched on top of Castle Hill, is the more austere Royal Palace, now housing the National Library, and several of Hungary's national museums. Next along, the Mattias Church, with its distinctive tiled roof, named after a Hungarian king from the 15th century, and scene of various royal events over the centuries. The Liberation Monument is farther along, on top

of Gellert Hill. A kind of dual-purpose memorial, this was intended originally as a homage to Hungary's wartime dictator; but subsequent events caused it to be altered during the construction process to become a memorial to the Red Army.

Slightly lower down the same hill is the Gellert memorial, a statue of the 10th-century priest who was created a bishop by the first Hungarian king, Stephen. After the death of the king, there was a rebellion against Gellert, and he was pushed over the hilltop; perhaps, if he had chosen to live on the flatter side of the river, history might have turned out differently. Nevertheless his statue still stands overlooking the city, holding a cross to protect the citizens of Budapest from further ill fortune.

Built into the hill itself is a chapel where ancient and modern meet. A labyrinth of small chapels known as the Cave Church was originally home to Hungary's only monastic order. At midnight on Easter Monday, 1951, it was stormed by the secret police; many of the worshippers were imprisoned, and the priest was murdered. It reopened in 1989.

The city's many bathhouses continued to function through the communist era. They are fed by some of the 100-odd thermal springs in Buda. The most famous - and certainly the most interesting architecturally - are those at the Art Nouveau Gellert Hotel, on the Buda side of Liberty Bridge. The baths are a legacy of the Ottoman occupation in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the Moslems had to obey strict rules of cleanliness before going to prayers.

Taking a bath here today is a complicated matter, and the ritual is confusing since there are no instructions to help you - not even in Hungarian. Meanwhile, the staff lack the charm of their surroundings. If you are lucky you may be allocated a locker, and you will be given a sort of minuscule apron to wear; this is, apparently, intended to preserve your modesty, but it would hardly cover the most sylph-like of bathers - which, it has to be said, most of the locals are not. Its main practical purpose seems to be to stop your buttocks getting scorched on the searingly bot wooden benches of the three, ever-hotter saunas.

When you can stand the discomfort no more you head for the shower to have a thorough wash (bring your own soap) before soaking for a while in the warm mineral pools.

The next torture is the steam room, where

you stay until the thought of plunging into an icy pool seems like a relief. At the end of all this you may feel like a massage, although persuading any of the surly staff to give you one could seem like too much of a challenge. The best time to go to the baths is early in the morning (they open at 6am), when most tourists are still in bed, but the citizens of Budapest are out in force.

There is nothing like sweating off a few calories to build up an appetite. As in the rest of central Europe, the cuisine tends to be heavy. And though there is a mouthwatering collection of fruit and vegetables on display in the central market every day, few of these seem to find their

way on to restaurant tables. The cakes, on the other hand, are spectacular. To get an idea of the range you only have to look at the menu at the well-known Gerbeand café in Vorosmati Square. It doesn't just have a list of cakes - there are simply whole sections devoted to tarts, cream puddings, chestnut

cakes, mixed pastries - the choice is endless. While the Gerbeaud looks like a relic of another age, the street scenes you see from its terrace present a view of unromantic, modern life. By day the square below, and the pedestrian streets radiating from it, are full of people going to work, going shopping, meeting friends. But as it gets dark you start to see groups of girls in low-cut dresses and short skirts, parading up and down looking for business.

When you can tear yourself away from watching the world go by, it is worth meandering around Budapest to admire the architecture. Although there are some hideous examples of post-war buildings, these are relatively few, and on the whole there's a nostalgic air of glamour, with long avenues of grand, 19th-century façades, updated with touches of Art Nouveau in the windows and balconies. Best of all, wander into the grand Parisi Udvar, a covered shopping arcade, where the barrel-shaped glass dome and tiled floor now have neon highlights. It's a very Budapest detail, reminding you that, after all, this is a living city, not a museum.

#### easier way to give your child a world of knowledge All this knowledge and so much more is packed into the new Eyer 12 ~ s Child. 'n's Encyclope lia on PC CD-stura. Designed specially for ages 7-11. the encyclopedia supports the School Curriculum and has been created specifically for the U.K. Bursting with interactive adventures, it will pave the way to success at school. Learning need never be

Now there's an

#### **BOUND FOR BUDAPEST**

British Airways (0345 222111) and Malev (0171-439 0577) each operates two daily flights between London Heathrow and Budapest. The lowest fare, including tax, on Malev is £209.20, and £20 more on British Airways. Accommodation

Cathy Packe paid £180 for a three-night package at the Gellert Hotel (00 36 1 185 2200), including breakfasts and one dinner. **Getting around** 

The Budapest Card offers unlimited public at the Western railway station.

transport, free admission to 55 museums and reductions for the airport minibus and thermal baths. It costs around £8 for two days, £10 for three. The best tram journey is route two, which rattles along from the market, alongside the Danube, to the parliament building. More information

Call the Hungarian National Tourist Office in the UK (0891 171200), if you don't mind paying 50p per minute. Or wait until you get to Budapest; there is a useful information bureau

SOUTH AMERICA BRITAIN

**RAC RALLY** McRae's challenge/23

Ecuador, Bolivia/4 Isle of Arran/7

Awesome All Blacks/24

EDUCATION MEETS IMAGINATION



## SIMON CALDER

If you find yourself in west London between 1am and 4am, you could well see a ghost train race past. Heathrow Express is testing the new Spanish-built trains for its noo-stop link from Paddington station to the airport. But the habit of runoing trains with oo passengers is

spreading to the rest of the network. Rumours have abounded all week that Eurostar is to scrap its planned services from Edinburgh and Manchester direct to Paris - three years after they were due to begin. The company denies the story, and says regional services will start in the New Year. Earlier this year Eurostar cancelled connecting trains from various parts of Britain to Waterloo, ostensibly in preparation for the direct services. To fill the void, one of the new train operating companies, Wales and West, launched a oew Manchester to Waterloo train. But the National Rail Enquiry service (0345 484950) is doing its best to make sure oo one ever travels on it.

Each time the rail enquiry service is found to be failing to meet its targets, and is fined by the rail regulator, promises are made about future performance. But these vows seem to be as empty as the 7.59am from Manchester Piccadilly.

Six separate calls to try to find out the fare all resulted in the bluot assertion: "There is oo train from Manchester to Waterloo," You begin to wonder whether the new service is a work of fiction in the great tradition of British Rail timetables.

If you ask for a oumber for Wales & West, you are told to ring 01222 430090. This phone line - which has a human being answering for only three hours a day - refers you back to the oumber you first thought of. By now, the search for someooe to (a) acknowledge the existence of the 7.59am from Manchester. (b) sell you a ticket for it, has takeo considerably longer than the time it takes to fly between the two cities.

The lowest fare on Air UK's Manchester to Loodon City route is £65 return. Book instantly on 0990 074074.

Airlines and railways do not always compete, particularly wheo you are Richard Branson. If you want to travel from London to Los Angeles, or from Oxford to Edinburgh, the Virgin brand can get you there. But, writes Sara Barker, of Oxford, it may not be able to get you back.

"I wanted to go from Oxford to Edinburgh on Friday, returning on Sunday."

The appropriate ticket is a SuperAdvance, which requires you to book a particular train in both directions. "I could reserve the northbound journey ... but after speaking to Great Western Trains, Thames Trains, ScotRail and Virgin Trains, I realised that although a train departed at 10.30am, changing at Birmingham, it was impossible to book it". Eventually, in all seriousness, a ScotRail official suggested she returned on Monday instead - and an exasperated Ms Barker agreed. Her ticket, when it arrived, bore the cryptic message, "Unspecified restrictions apply".

The timetable describes the service she had wanted: "Expected to be very busy. Seat reservations are therefore recommeoded." Since reservations are impossible, I suspect it will be as busy as those ghostly Heathrow Expresses.

# How to be a tourist, not a terrorist's target

Only journalists and the mentally unstable would ever wish to visit nations engaged in full-scale civil war. But this Week the front line moved frighteningly closer to the tourist. Simon Calder reports on where travellers are most at risk.

Last Monday was the bloodiest day in a campaign by Islamic extremists against tourists to Egypt. By the end of this winter's high season, the terrorists will be seen to have "won" the battle to wound the Egyptian economy. If, as seems possible, the 3.6 million people who usually visit the country each year is cut to one-sixth, then 5 per cent of the country's gross domestic product will be wiped out.

These are the cold figures concealing the dozens of individual tragedies arising from the massacre in Luxor. Some have said that tourists should not give the terrorists the "oxygen of publicity", and that tourism to Egypt should continue as normal.

In a perfectly collective world there would be merit in this argument, since one terrifyingly inevitable consequence of this week's attack will be

to target tourists. But choosing a holiday should never be a matter of life and death; repeated, highly targeted attacks on foreign tourists in Egypt suggest that there is a small but tangible risk of visiting the country.

Politically, attacking foreign visitors brings world attention to bear on a cause; economically, scaring away potential visitors can maim an economy. Tourists are being used as pawns in wider political struggles.

Following the collapse of Cuba's economic patron. the Soviet Union, Fidel Castro seized upon tourism as the way to escape from the economic abyss. Remarkably, this policy appeared to be succeeding which made the tourist industry a natural target for opponents to the regime, of whom there are

The safest country in the Caribbean has, in the past two years, become the target of attacks on hotels and other tourist installations. An Italian tourist died earlier this year in a bomb attack on a Havana hotel. The perpetrators are believed to come from among

in Florida.

The campaign by Islamic extremists against tourists began five years ago, and has become increasingly sophisticated. Monday's attack seems to have been timed to coincide with the opening of the World Travel Market in London, the world's largest travel industry gathering. Most attacks have been on clearly ideotifiable targets, such as tourist minibuses. It may, therefore, be safer to travel independently, using public transport.

#### The Shining Path, a Maoist guerrilla organisation, started the tourists as-targets ball rolling in the Eighties, when it declared a policy of killing foreign visitors. Two British visitors were murdered in the

Huallaga Valley by terrorists. But in the 17 years of conflict, fewer visitors have died here than in Florida in a single year.

In 1982, 400,000 tourists visited the island. The

to inspire other terrorist groups around the world the more shadowy anti-Castro Cuban exiles based country then plunged into a long and bloody civil Tamil Tigers, and it took 12 years before that annaber of visitors was equalled - when growth figures elsewhere in the region would suggest a 50 per cent

Hotels have occasionally been targeted, but the main threat has been of being caught up in large bombings in the capital, Colombo.

Paris of the island are still out of bounds except to the foolhardy, but much of it is unblemished and uncrowded.

A British tourist was killed in the southern resort of Marmaris in 1994, a victim of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) campaign of targeting tourists in Istanbul and Mediterranean resent areas as part of its campaign for a separate Kundish state in south-east Turkey.

For official Foreign Office warnings, contact the Travel Advice Unit on 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 8171-238 4545; on the Internet, at http://www.fco.gon.ukf or on BBC-2 Ceefax from page 470 onwards.



Egypt's Temple of Hatshepsut: Monday's massacre may have been timed to coincide with the start of the World Travel Market in London

#### GREEN CHANNEL

The greeo tourism dram found itself rolled out and banged around for one day at the world's largest travel trade exhibition, The World Travel Market, this week. Green Globe, the enviroomental arm of the World Travel and Tourism Council - made up of the world's top 200 tourism corporations - organised an environmental debate and environmental "clinics" for tourism executives wanting to green up their act. Environmental awareness and community beoe-

fits should go hand in hand, they said. But there's obviously a long way to go.

True, Scandic Hotels (represented at the debate, and a member of Green Globe) runs its hotels with eovironmental management at its core. Forte Hotels is also a member -a founding one, in fact. But it came out in the dehate that a proposed five-mile, \$368m development in Nungwi. oorthern Zanzibar, in which Forte Meridien is involved, is set to rock its green credentials. Plans are afoot for a presideotial-style hotel, an ocean marina, 200 condominiums, 300 luxury villas, a conference centre, a 27-hole golf course and a

country club on one of the world's most exquisite coastline. Local people who live on the peninsula say that they bave oot beeo consulted about the development, have not heard of any environmental assessments, and are expecting to be ousted from their homes. Forte Hotels was cominated the world's best hotel chain during WTM week.

Theo there were the World Travel Market Environmental Awards, and who should be one of the winners but Aitken Spence Hotel Managemeot. Never heard of them? You would have if you lived in the Dambulla region of Sri Lanka, where they

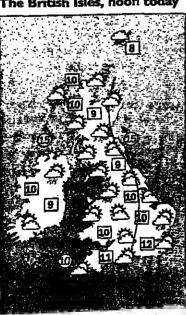
built the Kandalama hotel oo a sacred site over a local reservoir, despite the fact that around 50,000 local people protested against it.

Up the escalator to Asia, and there stood Myanmar (the name giveo to Burma by the military junta), where tourism has been developed by forcing civilians to labour on construction projects and moving millions of people out of their homes to make way for roads and hotels. How was it described in the literature oo the stall? Yes, wait for it: "an ecotourist's paradise".

Sue Wheat

#### WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



to 7.49

15.52 to 7.55

\_\_16.03

.15.59

General summary and outlook: it will be a dry day in many eastern areas, with only a very small chance of a brief shower, and there will be some decent spells of sunshine. South-west England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the north and west of Scotland will see occasional showers, but there will still be spells of sunshine in between. However, a brief heavy downpour is possible in these parts. A few showers will drift along the English Channel, perhaps bringing a splash of rain to some southern coastal areas.

Most parts will be dry and chilly but with plenty of sunshine on Sunday. However, east coasts of England and Scotland will have more in the way of cloud and some light showers. Rain will affect western Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and south-west England on Monday, but apart from the odd shower along east coasts, elsewhere it will be dry with some sunshine. Tuesday will be dry and cold in most parts with some sunshine, but showers. re likely along east coasts of Scotland and England.

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Lighting-up times 16.12 to 7,41 to .16.13 16.04 7.43

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SO2 Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

Atlantic chart, noon today

High tides AM HT PM HT 642 6.0 19:22 6.0 4:21 7.5 16:46 7.6 n/a n/a 12:11 9.9 Hull (Albert Dock) 11:42 6.9 23:52 7.1 5:46 2.9 17:30 3.3

#### **AA Roadwatch**

London, A1 between Watlord Way, Mill Hill Curcus and Fiveways Corner. Car-riageway reduced to two lenes for long term roadworks until 31st May 1998. All Cambs. Between Alconbury Hill and Haddon Interchange. Lane clearers, con-tration and 50mph speed Immit. Wiltshire, M4.116-J17 Swindon to Chippenham. Contraflow with two lanes each way and a 50mph speed limit until 28th ford area. Roadworks and a contraflow, with off peak and overnight lane and carriageway closures. A 50mph speed limit is also in place. Until 22nd December. West Midlands, M6 J8. Three lanes

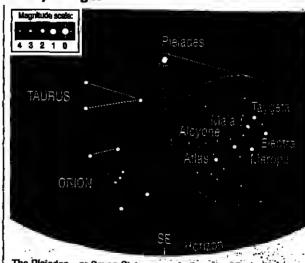
North and two lanes South. %)mph speed limil in force with additional lane closures. Until 19th December West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lotthouse (M62). A contration and a 50mph speed limit are in place until 13th A400, Charing Cross Road, Cambridge Circus. Roadworks northbound on Phoenix Street until further notice.

A803 East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow Road, Kitsyth Roadworks at Ballmalloch rioad unio son December. Greater Marichester, ASS, Old Trafford. Roadworks until 19th January 1998. Out sed about with AA Rood-

worten as 0336 491 for the lates local and national liattic names. Soutce: The Automo-bile Association. Calls changed at 35p per man (cheep rate). 45p per man (all other times) inc. VAT

Sun and moon

The sky at night



The Pleiades - or Seven Sisters - are in the constellation Tairrus, which can be found above the head of Orion. Taurus and Orion are now both well up over the southeastern horizon by 10.00 pm.

The compact ensemble of the Pleiades is the best known and most easily identifiable of all star clusters - a celestial "landmark" in the eight skies of late autumn and winter. Records referring to them go back at least as far as 1000BC, and they merit three mentions in the Bible. "Can'st thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion?" questions Job (Ch 38, v 31). If you are m any doubt about locating the Pleiades, follow Orioo's belt upwards, through Taurus. A pair of binoculars turned upon them should reveal 10 or 20 of the brightest members from a total of several hundred. On long exposure photographs, the Pleiades are seco to be embedded in a cloud of wispy interstellar gas, reodered visible by their starlight-like dust in a spotlight beam, but this faint ochulosity is not apparent to visual observers using modest hinoculars or telescopes.

# 3/CITY BREAK

THE INDEPENDENT SATURDAY



America's greatest city: Chicago possesses the critical mass of energy and culture that New York thinks it has UCL/TCL

## 48 hours in the life of Chicago

Chicago, the musical? A ticket to Chicago the city is possibly easier to get, and probably even more fun. For this week's prescription for the perfect weekend break, Simon Calder spends 48 hours in America's greatest city.

Because today the lights on State Street are switched on, adding to Chicago's claim to be the hest place on earth to do your Christmas shopping. Because until mid-December, transatlantic airlines are almost giving away flights to the United States. And because Chicago possesses the critical mass of energy and culture that New York thinks it has.

The new Air India flight from Heathrow to Chicago seems custom-made for the weekender. The 747 flies out at nooo on Friday and returns overnight on Sunday. Through discount agents such as Welcome Travel (0171-439 3627), you can get the flight for £253 including a multitude of taxes; and, if you decide to stay longer, you can change your return date without penalty.

Io response, the other airlines are cutting their fares for travel within the next month; American Airlines from Gatwick. Heathrow, Manchester and Glasgow; and British Airways and United from Heathrow.

Get your bearings

O'Hare is the world's busiest airport (ignore any representations to the contrary by Heathrow). You will probably arrive at Terminal 5, which has a tourist information centre of sorts. It also has the worst-value bureau de change I have ever encountered: £1 coins are changed at the rate of £1 for \$1.

The journey into the centre is most adroitly achieved by the CTA subway train, a bargain at \$1,50 to anywhere in the city. The catch is that first you must find the station. Take the airport shuttle train to Terminal 2, negotiate a series of escalators and moving walkways, and about 10 minutes later you will reach the station.

Here, your problems are only just beginning. Either ask the attendant for a token, or solve your transportation problems for the next two days by feeding \$13.50 (change machines are available) into the Transit Card machines. This will give you enough for 10 single journeys, and allow you to take transfers on buses for 30 cents each.

Do your best to persuade the attendant to give you the CTA map, which will be a trusty companion all weekend - and is the only map you need. Sit back and enjoy the 40-minute ride into towo.

Once there, orientation is easy. Almost all streets run northsouth or east-west, with few difficult diagonals. The main northsouth roads are Michigan Aveoue and State Street. The latter slices through the Loop, a rectangle covering about a square mile, defined by the elevated subway lines. (This sounds convoluted, but makes perfect sense wheo you see a map, hooest.) Being inside or outside the Loop is an important concept to the average

You will, if you follow this plan approximately, speed most of your time within or close to the Loop. Before you head significantly south of it, take local advice on safety.

Being a sensible traveller, you will have booked in advance. The McCormick convention centre has just been expanded to become the biggest in the world, which means that Chicago is often booked out with delegates. The demand for rooms means the prices quoted here can fluctuate significantly. Mid-range: Days Inn, Lincoln Park (001 773 525 7010) charges around \$70 (£45) including breakfast. Luxury: the Inter-Continental on North Michigan Avenue (001 312 944 8895) has winter weekend specials for as little as \$89 (£57) including tax.

Take a ride

The best way to get an instant understanding of the astonishing scale of Chicago is to take that Loop in full. Orange Line trains loop around it clockwise, Brown Line trains anticlockwise. On a terrain that is as flat as an uotopped pizza. Chicago has created its own laodscape, one that is best viewed 30ft up from a swaying train.

Take a hike

If you alight at Adams, you will be a block away from the Chicago Architecture Foundation. This commendable organisation, located on the ground floor of the Railway Exchange building at

the corner of Michigan and Jackson, runs a daily tour at 10am. For \$10, you spend two hours in the company of a well-informed guide who will trace the history of a city built upon unadulterned exaggeration.

Lunch on the run

At eight blocks to the mile (north-south; 12 to the mile east-west), it's a two-mile hike up Michigan Avenue to Water Tower Place. Worth the walk, though, for an unparalleled series of shops.

When you get to Water Tower Place, you find even more. Indeed, the glass elevator to the seventh floor is an excellent appetiser for your lunch. Many other cities have thought of food courts, but Foodlife - on the mezzanine floor - is different. Where else can you pile np your plate with antipasti, salad or hot dishes for \$4.95 per pound?

Cultural afternoon

Conventional wisdom has it that the best gallery in Chicago is the handsome old Art Institute. But the new Museum of Contemporary Art has a couple of advantages. One is that it is only 200 yards from your table at Foodlife. The other is that the building and collection celebrate space and assertion in a manner shared by the city itself.

From the outside, it looks wantonly grubby. Inside, the sharp angles and wide windows provide a startling venue for a challenging collection. Between now and 25 January, the fuzzy frontier between art and film is explored - highly appropriate in the most cinegeoic of cities, whose latest cameo is in My Best Friend's Wedding. The museum opens 10am-opm at weekends, from 11am on other days except on Monday, when it is closed.

From today, the windows of Marshall Fields department store in State Street become hilariously festive, arresting passers-by who then trigger massive, good-natured congestion in Chicago's main street. You can happily venture inside because of the general rule that prices in the United States are the same as in Britain - except that theirs are in dollars, as opposed to ours in pounds.

Nearby, the Berghof at 17 West Adams Street is a Germao hierkeller which also manages to he the archetypally American bar, complete with attentive service, good beer (local brews are rapidly gaining ascendance from the mass-produced fizz from up the highway in Milwaukee) and staff who expect their tips to be as handsome as they are.

Pizzeria Uno (29 East Ohio Street) is, it says, the original source of the Chicago deep-dish pizza. Many say it is still the greatest. Mine was the size of a small Midwestern town, and so tasty that I had the remains boxed up and munched them on the plane home. You may, however, need to queue for as loog as an bour.

Sunday morning: go to church

Westminster Abbey? Notre Dame? You can see bits of both at the skyscraper-Gothic Chicago Tribune tower on Michigan Avenue. This cathedral to journalism is decorated by pilfered masonry from celebrated and newsworthy structures around the world, from the Parthenoo to the Berlin Wall. Inside, inspirational morifs evangelise about newsp

Bracing brunch

The only place in town for real Chicagoans is Lou Mitchell's, the archetypal diner hiddeo around the back of Union Station at Jackson and Jefferson. You will be given a doughnut when you arrive, then treated to a mountain of French toast, million-egg omeletics and endless coffee, in chrome and cheerful surroundings.

A walk in the park

... may not be possible after a bout like that. But try to join the locals on the communal stroll through Grant Park, the verdant barrier between the city and the lake-that-thinks-its-an-ocean, Michigan.

The lcing on the cake

The 100-year-old public library at Randolph and Michigan has been brilliantly transformed into a people's palace. The Chicago Cultural Centre opens at noon on Sundays, until 5pm, and allows you to roam around four floors heavy with civic pride. The Dome Memorial Hall at the top shows that intricacy and sensitivity offer as strong an architectural suit as sheer scale, while the Corner Bakery on the ground floor is the place to fill any remaining gaps in your appetite.

#### RED CHANNEL

Hazards facing today's traveller on the railways of South America, as advised by the Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable.

The provinces of Argentina continue to bicker on about passenger trains, but their reluctance to pay for them is keeping the system very small. The gap in service on the southern main line remains, where it crosses La Pampa, but the

long-expected service from Buenos Aires north to Tucuman, which has been stopped by Tucuman's unwillingness to contribute any cash, may finally be starting. Tucuman has subcontracted service to an operator that thinks it may be able to make some money by offering a level of ser-

vice found on few trains. The trains themselves, old but refurbished, are fairly sumptuous, and your ticket includes the services of hostesses and private security guards. Presumably the clientele is expected to consist largely of rich, libidinous men, but, if they can make it pay, perhaps it will lead the way to unexpected pleasures on trains everywhere.

We, and many others, have been predicting the end of rail service in Ecuador for at least five years, but the system staggers on, still calling itself the State Railway, though the government has washed its hands of the operation. Yet again it has produced a schedule of train services. We in-

traveller who was there only seven days after the new timings were introduced found that both the railcars (they have only two) were out of service.

The Ferrocarril Arica-La Paz has been sold to the Cruz Blanca Investment Co, whose policy is not to open passenger services. The last of the routes offering rail service up into the Andes has thus been closed to passengers.

clude it as "advertised", but would warn that a Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable, £8.40

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## Writer's block in Ecuador

You don't have to travel hard or fast to appreciate the great variety of the tiny Andean nation of Ecuador. Richard Colbey took a route to the heart of the country.

It would only be a slight over-simplification of the traveller's geography of Ecuador to say that east of the capital, Quito, is jungle; to the oorth are the old towns of Otavalo and Ibarra with teeming Indian markets; head west and you reach beaches; and in the south are mountain ranges. Yet many of the country's visitors overlook all of these compass points and go only to its greatest attraction, the Galapagos Islands.

By South American standards Ecuador is compact and safe, with a good transport network. Indeed this is one of the most friendly and inexpensive places in the continent. Quito's altitude of nearly 10,000 feet can be a shock to those who arrive by air from lower-lying European countries. (For that reason many pre-booked Galapagos packages use larger, industrialised but coastal Guayaquil as their mainland base.)

You don't have to be an architecture buff to appreciate the capital's old town, with its Plaza de la Independencia surrounded by archetypal colonial buildings. We found a day's gentle walking around splendid churches, monasteries and old government buildings the ideal way to acclimatise before exposing ourselves to the rigour of the country's provinces.

Rigour, though, is a slightly harsh word for Baños. Three hours (normally) by bus from Quito, the town may be where the jungle begins, but it attracts visitors more for its thermal baths. The curative properties may

opportunities, private and public, hot and cold, for those who wish to take to the waters. Indeed, the bigger hotels all boast private spas. Those who can tear themselves away from these comforts will find a vast array of trips that can be taken on foot or by four-wheel drive into the jungle.

The gentlest introduction to the jungle is the 30 miles of road to Puyo, which is well enough paved to make cycling feasible. On a map the route seems all the more attractive because Baños is more than 1,000ft higher than Puyo. Sadly, that doesn't translate into a consisteot downwards slope. There seem to be just as many ops as downs. However, the less than fully fit will be consoled by the many buses that pass along the route. They think nothing of stopping in the middle of nowhere for sweaty gringos, taking the equivalent of a few pennies, putting the bikes on the roof, and dropping the foreigners off again a few miles up the road when they have got

their breath back. Whether viewed from bike or bus, the route offers a stunning first sight of the Amazon, following the tributary. Rio Pastaza. Across the river from the road is the seemingly impenetrable greenery; oext to the road, the hills bear down with almost diff-like steep-

We enjoyed our time in the Amazon so much that we delayed our return to Quito until the day before our flight home. And theo we found that we were almost unable to leave.

On the road between Baños and the country's main Pan-American highway we encountered one of the hazards of South American travel: the roadblock. In Ecuador. not a country where the police or army are particularly prominent, these are likely to be citizens' protests. This, so far as we could gather, was a demonstration against land "rebe questionable, but there is no shortage of forms" imposed by the government. The

protesters had completely blocked the road with rocks and boulders, and were allowing no one to pass by vehicle or on foot. We were the only foreigners on our bus, and, as far as we could tell, anywhere in the locality. All the local people were respecting the roadblock. Although we could not entirely understand what was going on, this appeared to be as much out of unity as any intimidation by the

Who were we to say that many of the locals did oot have as great a need to be somewhere the other side of the roadblock as we did? Nooetheless, we were conscious of the fact that foreigners do tend to be given special treatment, particularly in poor countries that have not yet become overrun by tourists. Remembering everything I had ever been told about non-confrontational body language, I went to the man who appeared to be in charge of the pickets, and told him in broken Spanish that I was a socialist journalist -- two halftruths - and asked if he would explain about the protest. He did so in more detail than I could have absorbed in English, let alone Spanish. The gist of it seemed to be that controls being introduced would make it impossible for subsistence farmers to continue, and that they would become absorbed into large estates. However bad my Spanish, though, there was no misunderstanding that these were poor people expressing an economic grievance in a forceful yet civilised way with the support

of the population around them.

By the time we had finished talking there was no goestion of our being prevented from getting through to the highway. We thanked the protesters and made what I feared were bollow promises to publicise their cause. We made it to Quito in time for our flight, and I hope that telling Independent readers about that protest goes some way to fulfilling my promise to the pickets.

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#### HIGH ROAD

Suppose you want to get from Paddington Station in London to Darkest Peru (defined as the city of Iquitos in the Amazon region of the country). The smart way is to take the complimentary limousine that Virgin Atlantic offers Upper Class passengers, to take you to Heathrow Terminal Three for the flight to Miami. You should have four hours in the Floridan city (best spent at the fancy shops of Coral Gables, 10 minutes from the airport), before taking your premium business-class seat on Faucett Peruvian's weekly non-stop to Iquitos. Virgin quotes a round-trip fare of

#### LOW ROAD

The stingy person's fast track from Paddington to Heathrow Airport Involves a train to Hayes and Harlington, transferring to bus H0 to the airport. The Colombian airline, Avianca (0990 767747), opened up low-cost air routes from Britain to the west of South America earlier this year. To increase business, it is currently offering an excellent deal to any Colombian city -including Leticia, on the Amazon - for £442 all In. You may reasonably observe that this is not quite the same location as lquitos, but you should be able to reach it from Leticia by taking an occasional boat upstream,



Independent and Independent on Sunday readers took over 2.3 million holidays last year, with at least one of them being in the UK.

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Source: TGI 1997

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For advice or more information, please call The Travel Team on 0171 293 2222



High season(ing): the Salt Hotel at Salar de Uyuni, where the local resource is extensively used to bizarre effect

Photograph: Massimo Bardhi/Bruce Coleman Limited

The desert lands of south-west Bolivia are remote and unearthly. Kerry McKibbin spent five days in a surreal landscape.

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with the

"Five hundred dollars and food not included? You want us to starve to death in the desert? Think of my mother, I beg of you," said the Israeli tourist.

For a good hour I had been convinced that I was the only tourist in town. Certainly, I had been the only traveller among the old men gathered at the main square, exchanging the evening's gossip under a watery sunset. As I'd vectured up the Avenida Ferroviaria, a bowler-hatted woman had stridden ahead of me, her coca-leaf wares wrapped in a pink, woven shawl, and her child waddling behind, tightly padded against the intense cold, his arm stretching up to hold the end of his mother's plait. Both were dwarfed by the statue of an armed railway worker which dominated the main street of Uyuni, the last outpost on the edge of the Bolivian desert, and the main

base from which desert expeditions begin. Survival on such journeys requires two things: endurable companions and a driver with a compass in his head. As a solo traveller, I was oo the lookout for both.

As I entered the tourist office, the other foreigner was bargaining hard: "OK. Three hundred dollars - but I'll find five "more people." His eyes lit up as he saw me. 'Four more people." One more Israeli, a Swiss and a French couple later, we'd secured a five-day round trip. A teachers' strike also provided us with Quintin, who, ence, became our driver.

Early the next day, with pan-pipe music blaring, our four-wheel drive vehicle headed towards an intriguing strip of white salt that glimmered in the distance. We exchanged the usual introductory stories of tropical diseases suffered, while the desert crept upon us unexpectedly. Suddenly the vehicle skidded. We were driving across the flats of Salar de Uyuni. A hlinding white sheet of tightly packed salt crystals, forming interlocking, octagonal tiles,

stretched from one horizon to another. Only a faint, brown track where the salt crust had been worn by previous Jeep tyres indicated human intrusion. We were surprised, therefore, to encounter a commuter.

In front of us, a boy wearing a balaclava and sunglasses shovelled salt on to a pile, licking his finger and marking it with his initials. Quintin waved in recognition. The boy was one of the salt farmers who cycle daily from Colchani to work the 10 hillion tonnes of salt for export to Brazil.

Apart from such commuters, the edge of the Salar boasted an hotel, also made of salt blocks. Here, guests sat on salt chairs around salt tables, admiring salt ornaments which already included a Christmas tree complete with baubles. Stopping for lunch, we played table football, trying to reassure ourselves that this was still the same planet we'd been inhabiting that morning. But the faraway Isla de Pescadores with its carpet of cacti continued to shimmer and float on the midday heat haze.

Back on the track, Jeeps from com-

throwing up clouds of dirt which coated my tongue with red, metallic-tasting dust. Brown, sloping hills rhythmically rose and fell to pan pipes while the French couple began to complain that the Swiss traveller's one cassette, Musica de los Andes, was becoming wearing.

Occasionally we would encounter sculptured erratics, desert versions of twisted, wind-hlown trees. Small lakes would appear ahead, and rare James flamingos with shocking-pink wings took flight at the sound of our engine.

That evening, in the village of San Juan, I crept down the main dirt track to the church, my footsteps startlingly loud. No trees wave their branches here. No traffic passes. No hirds sing. Untying the chicken wire at the gate, I passed graves with wooden crosses. Some were decorated with flowers; not all were named. Like the surrounding dwellings, the thatched church was made of adobe hricks. Its tower, no higher than 12ft, supported two pottery vases and a crucifix. From behind me the sun peting companies accelerated past us, cast an orange light, and the purple shad-

ows in the crevices of the mountains increased with the fading light. The church door was slightly ajar and in the beam of my torch I picked out a sack of skulls. Next to it was another containing leg bones; another with arms and spines. A distant cry intruded as women herded their llamas into stone pens, pulling their shawls tight as the sun finally went down.

Back at our communal room, the Swiss boy, suffering altitude sickness, had stuffed his mouth with coca leaves. Meanwhile the Israelis investigated the outhouses, and reported a lack of showers. At least we were to be saved the nightly terror which accompanies electrically-heated (and badly wired) Bolivian showers. In the darkness of the room, pan-pipe music played softly. "For God's sake!" came exasperated French hisses. I could see my breath in the moonlight. It was minus 20 degrees outside.

The desert defied my senses. Mirages held inverted reflections of hills; lagoons changed their colour as the winds blew. Laguna Colorada appeared red; Laguna Verde's grey mixed to blue and then to green

as the temperature of its minerals rose. High at the Sol de Mañana, 4,800 metres above sea level, the earth squealed scalding steam; sulphur clouds rose up, enveloping my companions whose silhouettes looked trapped against the early morning sun.

And in the midst of this wilderness, we encountered blasted check-points - one of them a camouflaged military camp where the Bolivian flag fluttered madly in the wind and two soldiers, who looked about 16, stood around in tattered uniforms. They allowed the Israelis, who had just finished their military service, to check out their rifles before receiving an angry dressingdown from their commander for handing over their weapons. Meekly, they checked our passports, lifted the road barrier and, returning to the jeep window, asked whether we had any sweets.

After five days and 870 kilometres, we returned in darkness to Uyuni. The town, we agreed, looked almost welcoming, and the prospect of a hot meal at El Rosedal was positively luxurious. As we ordered, Edith Piaf was playing in the background.

#### Postcard from Paraguay

For an intriguing combination of nostalgia and adventure, there's nowhere quite like Paraguay, writes Robert del Quiaro.

Central post offices in the capitals of Latin America were built to impress people for whom the writing of a letter or a telegram was an event of much contemplation and the sending of it a wrestling match with a sinewy arm of the state. Tall or not, and the Paraguayan curdoors would revolve to admit pensioners, office boys and girls, and travellers, who all trudged over mosaics for many metres. Lately, though, cuts and shortages have slackened the states' biceps. Doors squeak and stick, brass is smeary, positions are attended only by a few distracted clerks among terse cards -cerrado, fechado, fermé-closed,

Not so in Paraguay. There, a hahitual make-do grandeur and lack of cash meant that the capital's post office was improvised in an old townhouse of a single storey. Asunción still has this delightful amenity. In rooms off all four sides of the central courtyard, packages are weighed where the mistress of the house used to chivvy the laundry women about the starch in the collars; customs declarations are handed over where the master drank his bitter tea and read the paper, inkpads and sealing wax are stored where the children kept their rock-

ing-horses and dolls' houses. Customers stand at writingdesks in the covered patio, with their backs to the luxuriant central garden. When inspiration fails and you turn away from the pailed stationery, rich colours of the sub-tropics refresh the mind, and it's as though some wild and innocent tongue might at any moment

chirrup a prompt from among the leaves and flowers, and even protrude to lick your stamps.

Asunción is a low-huilt city laid out as a grid, always offering glimpses of green - plants hanging from house walls, lush banks of the rivers that meet nearby. The language you hear people speaking here sounds more like Chinese than anything European. Guaran was spoken - but not written - long before the Spaniards arrived. It's widely used by Paraguayans, whether they have indigenous blood rency, out of extra respect, is the

To see how the country used to live - and continues to live now get out of the city and visit the remains of Jesuit missions. They ran the region as a theocratic colony for more than a century until the Spanish empire expelled it in 1767.

Then spend time on an estancia (cattle ranch). The tourist bureau in Asunción can arrange that expect old-fashioned, machotype encounters amid grand horizons, strong wrists, long whips, supple horses and sizzling steaks.

Vegetarians do not thrive here. Up the River Paraguay, when it's not in flood, there are boat trips to Concepción, half-way across the country, and even as far as Corumba on the frontier of Brazil and

That's at the edge of the Pantanal, one of the greatest expanses of wetland left on the planet, with wildlife galore, mob-handed mosquitoes and slow to-ings and froings in mist and sunlight of herds of long-horned cattle - a kind of Chisholm Trail up to its knees in water. Watch out for the African crocodiles that some fool of an entrepreneur has started to breed farther down the rivers. A close encounter here ... well, that would be something to write home about.

### SOUTH AMERICAN DEPARTURES

**Getting there** 

In the past year the traveller to South America has suffered two bouts of bad news. The first was when the Venezuelan airline Viasa collapsed, removing one of the best budget bets to most South American destinations. The next was the imposition of higher taxes on travellers by the

US government, making America a much more expensive proposition for connecting flights.

The good news is that the arrival of two "new" airlines, Avianca of Colombia, and Transbrasil, means more choice and lower fares. British Airways, Iberia of Spain and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have responded by offering some good prices on specific flights. The best deals are likely to be to Buenos

Aires, Rio and São Paulo. To reach the destinations featured on these pages, try the following: Heathrow to La Paz, Bolivia, on Avianca via Bogotá; one of numerous UK airports to Quito, Ecuador. on KLM via Amsterdam; Heathrow to Asunción,

Paraguay on Viasa, via Rio. South American specialist agencies know their way through the Amazonian jungle of air fares; Independent writers have received good service from Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108), South American Experience (0171-976 5511) and Steamond (0171-730 8646).

Getting in

Visas are no longer required for short visits by British passport holders to any South American nation. Immigration officials may, however, request evidence of an air ticket out of the country, and sufficient funds.

Getting around

To see plenty of South America (or, at any rate, its airports), the Golden air pass enables you to visit five South American cities for a total of \$1,045 (£618 at yesterday's rate). To qualify, you must fly to the Colombian capital, Bogota, on the national airline Avianca (0990 767747). You

VENEZUELA COLOMBIA BRAZIL BOOMA. Paz-Corumbá

> can then choose from a range of the preferred currency, and a reserve places, including Quito, Lima, La Paz

> Buenos Aires, Santiago and Rio. The main form of surface transport in South America is the bus. The term covers a multitude of vehicles, from smooth, air-conditioned coaches to converted trucks (or even unconverted trucks). The ejecutivo services on the highways of Brazil, Argentina and Chile are fast and comfortable. At the other extreme, you of a lorry that is lurching precariously between mudholes in rural Bolivia. na, Brazil and Chile are as expensive The Thomas Cook Overseas as most European destinations.

Timetable gives an indication of frequencies on main routes, but the precise schedules change often. The timetable also details the depleted network of railways in South Amer-

ica (see Red Channel, page 3). Driving is only for the fearless, bearing in mind the imaginative motoring techniques employed by

the locals. Venezuela has one of the highest rates of road deaths in the world.

Health Except in parts of the south

of the continent, take precautions against malaria, hepatitis and yellow fever. Beyond this, it would be foolish to generalise about the risks in a continent that includes, inter alia. some of the driest and wettest locations in the world, and has huge variations in wealth. Consult your GP or a travel medicine specialist such as Masta (0891 224100) for advice about specific destinations.

Pounds - either travellers'

cheques or cash - are hard to exchange in South America. US dollars are

of \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills can help temporary shortages of local currency. Since rapid devaluation is the norm for many South American currencies. obtain only a little at a time.

Living costs

You can live very cheaply in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. A good dinner may cost £5, a night in a comfortable hotel may find yourself clinging to the back £10. Life is cheaper if you stay in places busy with insect life. Argenti-

## THE INDEPENDENT

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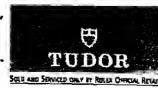


Roofing of the world: before the war, Blaenau sent state to the four corners of the earth. Below, the Corwy Valley line

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## Clean slate for a Welsh steam train

Once the slate capital of the western world, the challengingly named Blaenau Ffestiniog now offers a strangely beautiful setting for a Welsh weekend, writes Heather Payton.

It was going to be a lovely evening - a rare thing, we'd been led to believe, in this wild north west of Wales. Just half-an-hour earlier, we'd arrived in the dark, and walked the 50 yards to the hotel. Now the sky was dappled above us, the clouds luminous in the moonlight as we enjoyed our predinner stroll, much better than the southern English fog we'd left behind. Wales I, England nil.

"Hang on." said my husband, who is a Welshman, so he's allowed to cast doubt. "It's a bloody great cliff."

It was. A 200-ft vertical mountain of slate, glinting wetly, towered over a small parade of shops. This was Blaenau Ffestiniog, former slate capital of the western world.

It had all started on a perfect summer's day as we watched a tiny train scoot along, apparently inches from the sea from our vantage point half-way up a Welsh hill. Trains could be nice, after all. So here we were on a damp November evening, six trains and nine-and-a-half journey hours into a marathoo three-day anticlockwise circuit of Wales. Just the birthday present for the Welshman who has everything. Paddington, Cardiff, Crewe, Chester, Llandudno Junction, Betws-y-Coed. Tomorrow and the day after, the Ffestiniog narrow gauge to Porthmadog, glottaltwisting Machynlleth, Llanwrtyd, Llandeilo and Llanelli, before Swansea and home. Phew.

Before the war, Blaenau sent its slate, via the little railway, to the four corners of the earth, roofing the world from what feels like the roof of the world. Conditions for the underground workers were appalling, but the English mineowners made profits until eventually cheaper Spanish slate overwhelmed them. By the Fifties many of the mines had closed; the last time the remainder made mooey was in the Sixties. Now, apart from two remaining mines, Blaenau's slate stays in the ground, the population has shrunk from 15,000 to 5,000, and the Welshspeaking local kids hang out by the bus shelter to the occasional sound of breaking glass.

But it does have an extraordinary sort of beauty, in a decaying industrial sort of way. The High Street is fighting back with a cluster of smart fascias and the newly renovated (and pricey) Queen's Hotel, Eighteeo mooths ago it was derelict. The new owners hope that its rebirth, at a cost of £450,000, is one symbol for the town. Another is its newly-rediscovered role as the filmmakers' darling. White Knight, with Richard Gere. was shot nearby, 60 years after its début as the site of the first-ever Welsh language movie, and the area is currently providing the backdrop for a television re-make of Merlin. Doo't feel too

In daylight, the dominance of the shiny slate is more obvious. What oo earth does it do to the psyche, to grow up under towering, dripping monuments to industrial failure? Or to play rugby in the shadow of a gigantic slag heap?

We opted for a morning walk up the hill to the last remaining slate mine to run tours for the visitors. The other has just been bought by McAlpine, and will concentrate on producing

But although Llechwydd does tours all year, there was oothing that would give two damp trampers the time to surface and walk back in time for their train, so we had to content ourselves with a free wander through the recoostructed Victorian miners' village. Here we heard

as an old man, told his daughter. "When the third string breaks, my time will have come." One string went, then another, and another. The harpist was: soon dead. Perhaps Blaenau's three strings, hav-

ing broken, are gingerly being rejoined.

As we walked back down to Blaenau, the sunstruggled out, bouncing off the slate and the smoke of the little town far below.

Most of the tourists who visit Biaenau do so for the trains. The Conwy Valley line from the north follows the river, wide and silver to start with, against goldeo trees. The train, carrying its mixture of backpackers and flat-capped Welshspeaking farmers, rumbles through forests past the oddly Germanic Betws-y-Coed. The mountains are all around; as everyooe knows, Wales would be far bigger than England, if only it could be ironed out.

Yet it's the steam-drawn Ffestiniog Railway that really brings them in. In its early days after 1836, it carried its wagons full of slate down the 13-mile 670-ft drop to Porthmadog by gravity. The horses got a free lift down, but had to haul it back up. In later years came steam, and human passengers, but when war was declared, it: came to a halt, the engines abandoned where. they stood. By the Fifties, its tracks had disappeared and bits of its engines were gracing the living-rooms of souvenir honters. It was to be another 30 years before, lovingly restored by volunteers, it would reopen.

The train arrives at Blaenao in a cloud of steam, and the driver and his mates, hats pulled down, relish their glory as they busy themselves with what all little boys want to do. The hourlong trip is stunning. The train rocks urgently past lakes, squeezes through fern-studded rock cuttings, sidles precariously along the sides of mountains, its track built up with stones, before bursting into a sunlit valley of goldeo trees with golden apples and goldeo light. You doo't get this view from any road.

As we trundle through the forests we pass redsocked walkers; if you get your timing right, you'. can get off at one of the tiny halts with challenging oames and meet the oext train further down: Tanyerisian where a new tunnel had to be blasted... through the mouotam, or Dduallt and Tan-y-Bwich, where the track loops around oo itselfas it spirals down the valley. Or from Minffordd there's a 15-minute walk to the Italianate village of Portmeirioo, sceoe of the cult TV series, The

Eventually there are views through the mountains, growing ever larger, of the estuary where the Llyn Peninsula meets the Cambrian -Coast, before a right turn takes us over a causeway to Porthmadog with Soowdonia reariog up behind it. A museum at the statioo's tea rooms tells of the railway's reincarnation, but for us it was the 10-mioute walk to the mainline station, and on with the journey south.

Remarkably, it all fitted together. Eleven different trains, nearly all on time, 18 hours of travel. The planning took nearly as long. It would probably have been quicker by road, but oot ocarly as pretty. Would I do it again? Well ... the Ffestiniog Railway breaks its winter slumber between Christmas and New Year, so if I have a few days off Pll be oo my way. It is bound to look completely different clockwise.

For more details of the Ffestiniog Railway, call 01766 512340 or go to www.festrail.co.uk on the Internet. For train timetables, call 0345 484950 or consult railtrack.co.uk. The Freedom of Wales Fles Pass offers eight days' rail travel over 15 days for. £57 until 4 January.

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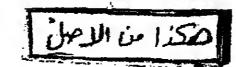
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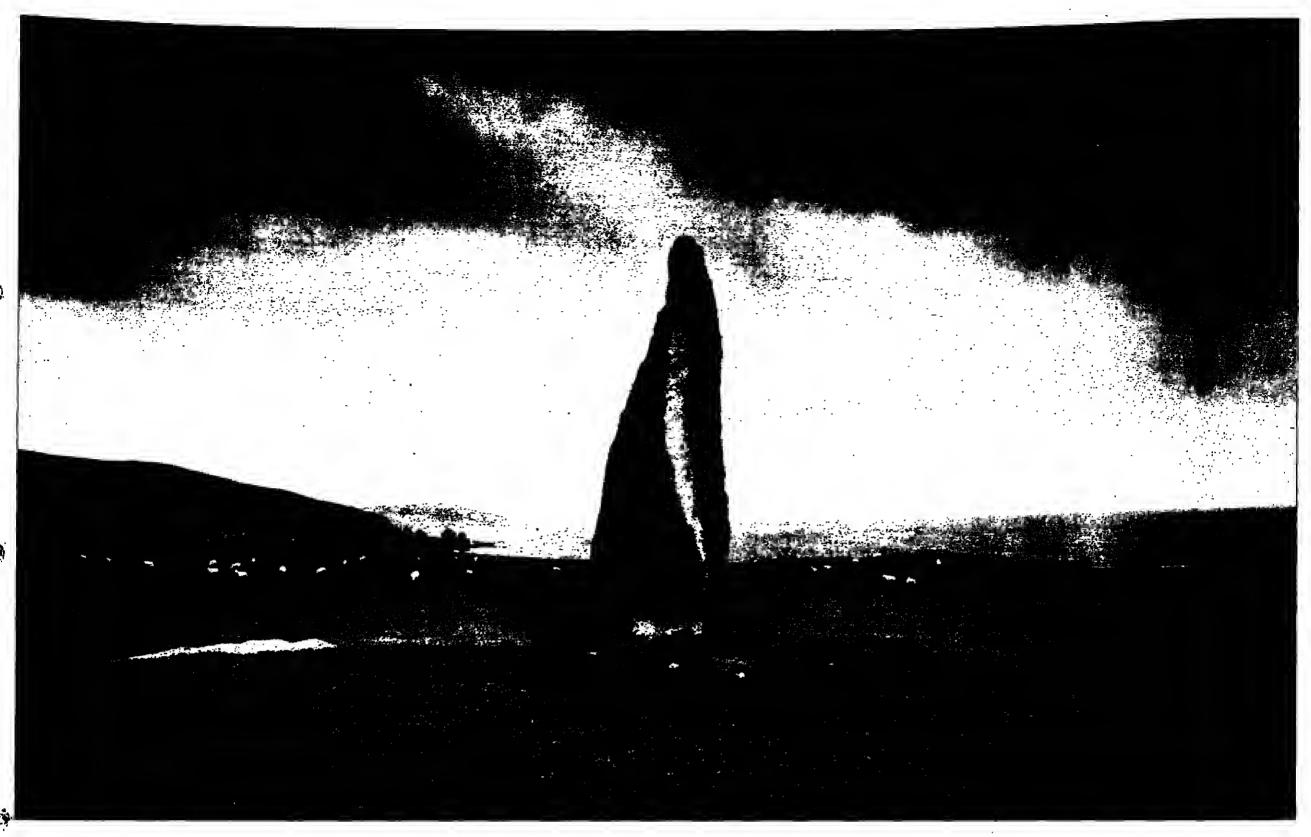
Heather Payton paid £70 for a huge double room at the Queen's Hotel, Blaenau Ffestiniog (01766 the tale of Dafydd Francis, the blind barpist who, 830055). Llechwedd Slate Caverns: 01766 830306.





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### Rocks of ages

in the north are savage peaks, to the south gently rolling lowlands. The Isle of Arran is Scotland in miniature and a British gern, writes Graham Hoyland.

The odd thing about islands is that you keep going back to them. I was conceived on the Isle of Arran, and 1 suppose I will keep returning until I die. Our family decamped there every summer holiday, coming up from England to stay with my grandmother. We didn't live in the Front House, her solid sandstooe terraced house in Brodick, but squatted in the Back, a tiny, two-room cottage with wooden cabins behind it in another, recessive Back. Grandmother came too. From here, in an atmosphere of paraffin lamps and the smell of damp, come my oldest memories of Arran.

The reason for my grandmother's seasonal move was to make room for the Folk. Nearly

everyone in Arran seemed to let softly rolling lowlands, intertheir houses to the holidaymakers from Glasgow, Standing in the Firth of Clyde has truly made Arran "Scotland's holiday island", but somehow its very popularity hlinds people to the fact that this is one of the real gems of the British Isles.

Robert Burns seemed hlind to Arran, too. He must have seen the Arran hills from the inland Avishire farms where he spent his youth, but he fails to mention the island in his writings. This scems unaccountable; as you arrive at the dismal town of Ardrossan to catch the ferry you cannot fail to be impressed by the view across 14 miles of sea - if it's not raining. Then you may just see a dirty grey smudge. But on a clear day, Arran floats there in all her glory.

At once you can see why the island claims to be a Scotland in miniature. In the north, savage peaks jag against the sky, their flanks streaked with white burns. In the middle the glens dip down to Brodick, the main village, and to the south are the year-old booes of the island.

rupted by the shape of Holy Isle.

You can take your car oo to the ferry, or, better still, your bike. As the ferry approaches Brodick Bay on the eastern side of the island you may see measured mile markers further up the coast. The Clyde-built liners used to time their trials speed against them; this stretch of water is where they first stretched their sca-legs.

Arran is immeasurably ancient; it was an island before the mainland of Britain parted company with Europe. We know this because its speciacular physical structure was the hattleground of the early geologists, the Neptunists versus the Plutonists. The views of the latter prevailed: it is now believed that the northern granite peaks were the result of an upwelling of molten material from the Earth's interior, since eroded by time - and the hammers of generations of geology students, who have come every summer to chip away at the 500-million-

Brodick pier you can see that the coast road goes in two directions - of course, it's circular. It's 56 miles round the island, and it can be cycled in a day. It's also a great way to see Arran. If you go northabout you do the difficult bits first. You pedal through Brodick, around the hroad bay named by the Vikings, perhaps gazing up at Goatfell, the highest mountain of the island. Just under 3,000ft. it's not big enough to qualify for

gests that only mountains over that height are worth climbing. This serves to point out the absurdity of a system based on size. Arran's mountains are some of the finest in the world, being finely shaped, accessible in a day and surrounded by sea. Across the buy, beneath Goatfell, is Brodick Castle, a red sandstone symbol of the power of the

feudal system, repeatedly

sacked and rebuilt. A study of

its blood-soaked history leaves

the Munro system, which sug-

you feeling rather grateful for living in our own age. One of the absentee landlords, the 12th Duke of Hamilton, preferred to carouse in Nice with bis expensive mistress. Amelia Gioia, oo an income of £140,000 a year. Meanwhile his tenants were being thrown off the land to make room for the cost-effective black-faced sheep. Now you can enjoy tea while admiring

the castle gardens, which have fine rhododendrons. Pedalling up the coast, you pass through Corrie, reckoned by Asquith to he the prettiest village in Europe, and home to the founder of the publishing Macmillans. For one hizarre moment you double-take, and then realise that the bollards of the tiny harbour are painted to look like sheep. Black-faced sheep. Looking left as you pass through Sannox you can see right up Glen Sannox to Cir Mhor, a dramatic mountain view. It's a struggle up and over the Boguille, where the road leaves the coast and takes to the hills, but behind you'll see a great jugged ridge, with the

terrible Witch's Leap. "Arran of the many stags." declaimed a Gaelic poet; at this time of year you may see a stag rendered black and frighteoing by wallowing in the peat bogs. Then it's a long, winding freewheel into Lochranza with its grim castle, and views of the Mull of Kintyre.

As the ferry des up alongside along the flat shoreline of the west coast. Remote and sparse- down to Brodick pier. The Ardrossao at 9.45am, 3.15pm y populated, this side of the island feels Hebridean. Past a row of white cottages at Catacol, wonderfully named the Twelve Apostles, and past the guest house still run by members of my family. Up the gleo is to be found a species of service tree unique to Arran. I remember going on an exhausting expedition up there with my father to find one, while my mother another native of the island found a tree by the road after

a leisurely lunch. It's easy pedalling on this side of Arran; your tyres sing as you cycle on the polished Tarmac and it can feel surprisingly lonely. The sky seems buge; the cystercatchers whistle along the shore. Nothing much has changed here for thousands of years, and the great stone circles at Machrie remind you of the ancient owners of this land.

The names slip by: Torbeg, Drumadoon and Sliddery Water. Suddenly you find yourself in a tropical rain-forest. Appropriately, Lagg is at the southern end of the island; the palm trees and lush undergrowth are an indication of the warmth of the Gulf Stream that washes around the island. Tea at the hotel here is timely, as now you are returning northwards.

in Whiting Bay you will pass the Burlington Guest House, where I had the best meal I've ever had on the island. Now Holy Isle is coming into view in the buge, natural an-chorage of Lamlash bay. Saint Molaise lived here in a cave (as was fashionable in the sixth century), and for bundreds of years Holy Isle was a place of Christian pilgrimage. Now it is owned by a sect of Tibetan Buddhists who want to make the island-within-an-island a world centre for ecumenical, ecologically friendly contemplation. They have already placted 30,000 trees and have plans for a multi-million-pound retreat complex sunk into the hillside.

Abbot-Lama Yeshe Losal's cell will be at the top, reached by a winding path, and glassfrooted individual cells will cascade downwards in two tiers, oce for men, oce for womeo. Each cell echoes St Molaise's cave, but will include a lavatory and shower. The Buddhists are trying to leave their Wheel of Life to reach a finer place, but as we gasp over the hill from Lamlash we have come full cir-

Now we can speed back each way each day; from Eerie appeal: the standing oorthern hills look good from up here, frozen in a snapshot from their million-year lives. This is what Arran so powerfully evokes: the infinity of time. We are just shadows that costs £39.50. A hicycle costs £2 flit across the land; all we can do is celebrate it.

Getting there: Most ferry services are operated from Ardrossan to Brodick by Caledonian MacBrayne (enquiries, 01475 650100; bookings, 0990 650000), with three ferries (01770 302140).

and 6pm, and from Brodick at 8.20am, 1.50pm and 4.40pm. The foot passenger fare is £5.35 for a five-day return. A five-day return for a regular-sized car

Accommodation: Graham Hoyland's relations ruo the Fairbaven Guest House in Catacol (01770 830237). For other places to stay, call the tourist information office in Brodick

Photograph: Colin McPherson

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### Of stars and sailing ships

Go to Greenwich for a day out and you're almost guaranteed to lose your sense of time there's so much to explore, writes Sarah Jewel.

A day's visit to Greenwich is an intriguing eye-opener on the relationship between time, space and the navigation of the sea. In the 17th century the greatest problem that beset all maritime trading nations was how to travel across the seas to the New World without getting lost. In 1675 Charles II decided that he would appoint an astronomer to draw up a map of the heavens that would be accurate enough for sailors to pinpoint their longitudinal position at sea. It took John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, 40 years, but his meticulous charts of the night sky solved the problem until the invention of the marine chronometer. In 1884 Greenwich was chosen as the site of the prime meridian line of the world (longitudinal position 0) and Greenwich Mean Time began.

Charles II's Royal Observatory, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, is perched on the top of Greenwich hill and the magnificent view from the meridian line looks out over the National Maritime Museum, the Queen's House - Inigo Jones's 17th-century royal villa, the Royal Naval College and the 19th-century tea clipper, the Cutty Sark. Beyond the Thames, the yellow construction cranes of the Millennium Dome loom as this century's tribute to the passage of time.

The visitors Sarah Jewel took Esther Hindley, nine, and

Guy Hindley, seven.

Sarah: We took the Docklands Light



Railway to Island Gardens and then walked through the leaky foot tunnel under the Thames to Greenwich pier. It was pouring with rain as we came out of the tunnel and we looked up at the glistening symmetry of the rigging and masts of the Cutty Sark outlined against the sky.

Launched in 1869, this delicate little ship was built to sail to China and back in the great tea races of the 1870s. After standing over the polished wooden and brass steering wheel on the main deck and fantasising that we were out on the open seas. with the rain lashing into our faces, we needed warming up.

Greenwich village is full of bars, cafés and exciting shops. We dived into the Pier Fish Restaurant where we each had some tasty cod and chips and a rather watery hot chocolate. Then we made a beeline through the park to the Old Royal Observatory.

For anyone, like myself, with an under-

developed sense of spacial awareness this is the place to push the buttons, play with the gadgets and get to grips with measuring the lines of longitude and latitude around the world, working out time changes between the eastern and western hemispheres. Clocks of all description are on display, from "H4" the forerunner of all precision watches, to the Accurist Millennium Countdown clock.

As we left the Old Royal Observatory the sun started to shine, and we walked down the hill across the beautifully kept lawn to the National Maritime Museum. Huge oil paintings of the battleships that fought during the First and Second World

Wars line the walls of the exhibition of 20thcentury sea power. The bloodied breeches of the greatest captain of the seas, Admiral Lord Nelson, are on display in the exhibition that charts his life and loves.

Esther: I thought the Docklands train was very exciting because there was no driver and it feels as though you are controlling it yourself. I liked sliding about on the decks of the Cutty Sark which were very wet and slippery, and looking below deck at Long John Silver's collection of lady figureheads.

In the Old Royal Observatory we played games and learnt what the time difference is between London and Los Angeles. We saw an enormous telescope that can see through the clouds at night, but I a boat, and there was a pretend control

was disappointed that we weren't allowed to look through it. We played with a machine that explained how light rays shine through different-shaped lenses. I think my class should go there, because we are learning about convex and concave lenses at the

At the Maritime Museum there was a really exciting gallery for children with lots of different gadgets and games all about people and the sea. I liked putting my hands in a huge pair of rubber gloves inside a tank and feeling how difficult it is to operate machinery under water. In the Lord Nelson exhibition there was a film about the Battle of Trafalgar that showed how Nelson got shot. In the room about 20th-century ships, the whole exhibition was shaped like

Greenwich: an intriguing eye-open on the relationship between time, space and the navigation of the sea. Photograph: Brian Harris

room of a frigate where we shot torpedoes at an enemy ship on a computer screen.

Guy: I liked the train because it went slow and fast and it felt like being in one of my racing cars that tip to the side when they go round the corners of my Scalextrix. I thought we had a very good captain of the train - but I wasn't sure how he controlled it.

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I thought the Cutty Sark was very in-teresting, and I liked going below deck where there was a sailor who was tying all different types of sea knots with funny names like Chinese button knot and monkey's fist knot.

The thing I liked best at the Observatory was the old wooden telescope in the Octagon Room, because when I looked into it I didn't see the sky and the rain - instead I saw Pluto, the dog from Disneyland. I would like to go there at night and look through the enormous telescope and see a star being made, like we saw on the video screen. At the Maritime Museum I liked sending a Morse code message across the room to Esther in the children's gallery. I had a very good day out.

Getting there: the Docklands Light Railway runs from Bank or Tower Hill Tube to Island Gardens. Walk through the foot tunnel to Greenwich. Boat cruises from Westminster, Charing Cross or Tower piers to Greenwich pier.

Prices: The Old Royal Observatory and the National Maritime Museum (0181-858 4422) open daily 10am-5pm, adults £5:50, concessions £4.50, children £3; combined ticket includes entry to Queen's House Cutty Sark: open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-5pm, adults £3.50, children £2.50, family £8.50.

Other attractions: Royal Naval College, Queen's House, Greenwich Park.

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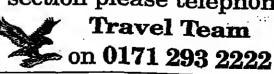
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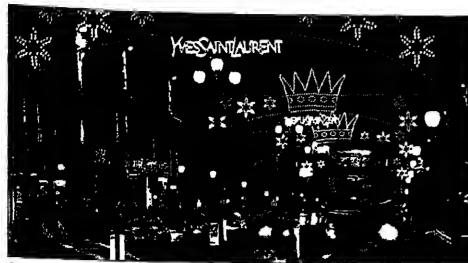
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es St Laurent lights: bigger and less tasteful than permitted

### Tripping the lights fantastic

it has become the annual moan: high street Christmas lights dazzle only in their staggering tastelessness - especially those in London's West End. But as Mike Higgins found, some of our leading designers have ideas for a brighter Christmas

The sorry parade of pathetic Santas, tatty aogels and garish lighthulbs is a far cry from the restrained illuminations that first appeared on Oxford Street in the early Fifties.

The problem stems in part from design, and in part from underfunding. Though West End businesses consider the Christmas lights essential to attract festive shoppers, it was left to a French company. Yves St Laurent, to sponsor the Regent Street lights. Reportedly for

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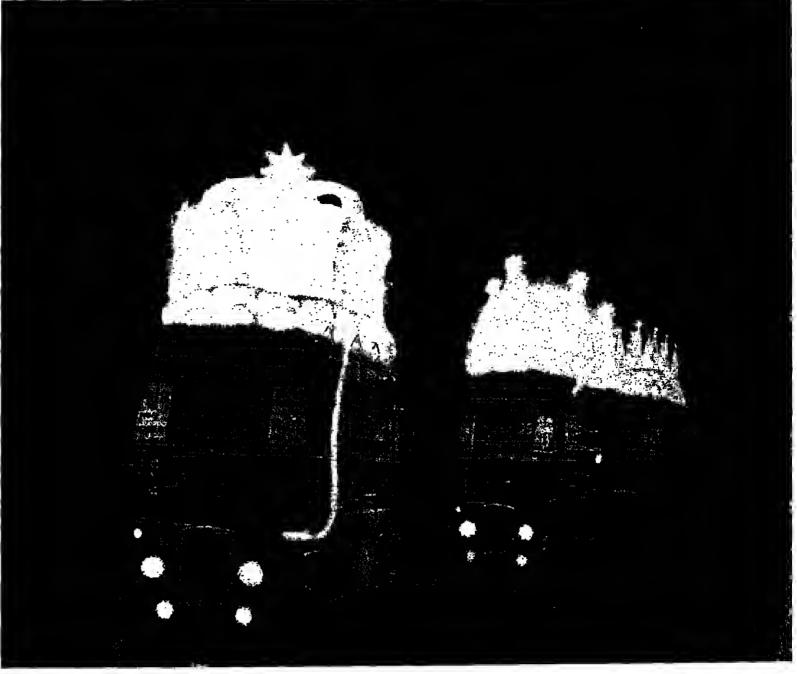
half the cost of the £180,000 illuminations, the fashion label was able to emblazoo its logo across the lights in the heart of the West End at a bargain basement price. Last week, however, Westminster planning officers noticed that the YSL logos were 30 per cent bigger than indicated in the scheme approved by Westminster City Council

The Regent Street Associatioo now faces prosecution unless the lights are modified, This year, however, another debate concerns the question of design. "Turned On: the RIBA Journal Campaign for Better Christmas Lights with the Museum of London" will he launched in the RIBA Journal's December issue.

As part of a feature proposing imaginative, radical new solotions, Dr Simon Thurley, director of the Museum of London, emphasises the need to reassess festive street decoration: "We have a crisis of Christmas design. Christmas street lights in most British towns and cities are at hest cheap and half-hearted, and at worst vulgar and tawdry ... despite being ephemeral, [they] are street furniture, or even, as we would contend, street architecture." As John Welsh, editor of RIBA Journal, adds in his leader: "Who better to provide ideas than architects?"

Invited by the RIBA Journal to come up with ideas for illuminating a stretch of Oxford Street in any way they wished, 10 architects' practices dreamt up a challenging, witty and and delightful series of schemes to lift the festive gloom. Here are five of their suggestions.

A fuller version of this piece will appear on Monday in the RIBA Journal'. Turned On', an exhibition of the 10 schemes, is open at the Museum of London from Tuesday, 150 Landon Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699), £4 (concs £2).



Richard Portchmouth, of Birds, Portchmouth & Russum: Three Kings'

"The Regent Street lights, like most, are a bit predictable, and fail to recognise the most characteristic thing about shopping in central London - transport. We were thinking of all the shoppers carrying their presents home, and came up with a scheme that uses the inherent character of the red Routemaster buses. Everyone knows that buses, like the kings arriving in Bethlehem, always come in threes. The three kings also travelled east, and Oxford Circus is oriented east-west.

"Using the exhaust of the bus, the crowns would

remain semi-inflated oo their way in and out of Ceotral London, inflating to their full capacity along Oxford Street. A myrrh-scented filter could be fitted to the inflatables to treat the exhaust fames, so that the people of Loodon get the present they really want: a bit of

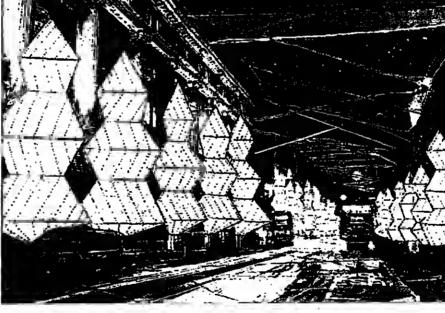


Julian Bicknell, of Julian Bicknell & Associates: 'Flying Saucers'

"The Japanese are good at it, the Freoch are pretty good, but English festive lighting is lousy. The lack of imagination is a sad reflection on our planning system. "Christmas, and therefore the lights, should appeal to kids, ultimately. If you go into Ham-

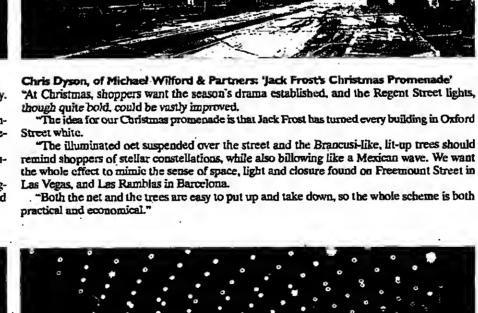
leys, there's movement and life everywhere, and that's primarily what our saucers - four metre helicoidal discs - would reflect. "Also, people are reassessing their spiritual and religious needs with the millennium coming, so the saucers also play with the idea of life from outer space.

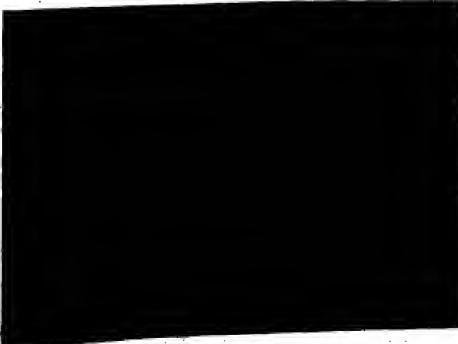
Kids love mechanical things - the saucers will definitely not be high-tech. They'll be staggered as they zip up and down their cords, creating a Mexican wave effect the length of Oxford



"At Christmas, shoppers want the season's drama established, and the Regent Street lights, though quite bold, could be vastly improved.

remind shoppers of stellar constellations, while also billowing like a Mexican wave. We want the whole effect to mimic the sense of space, light and closure found on Freemount Street in Las Vegas, and Las Rambias in Barcelona.





Danny Vaia, Nic Clear, Jonny Halifax and Ezra Holland, of General Lighting and Power:

"If we could only accept that Christmas is essentially a pagan holiday, and the true way to celebrate

it is in a drunken orgy of gluttony: it's not the thought that counts. "Who takes any notice of the Christmas lights in London? There's oo vision or drive - they just are. The Disco TV Mirror Ball would cost about a million quid, be about three metres in diameter, weigh several tonnes and be absurdly difficult to install, thus fulfilling all the criteria for a top art project. It would look cool swioging over Oxford Circus, showing Christmassy porn on its TVs and projecting disco lights over the surrounding buildings. Boy band covers of Christmas carols would play at full volume. The Disco Ball would capture the exploitative naffness that is the modern yuletide holiday."



Alex Lifschutz, of Lifschutz Davidson with Spiers & Major: 'Northern Lights' Colour projectors will shine in a variety of ways on to a suspended grid of compact discs. mir-

rored one side and matt white the other. "By day, the low-angle winter sun will reflect off the discs. As dusk approaches, the colour projectors will mimic the changing colours of the evening sky. When night falls, the common lighting scene will pan white light down the disc grid, creating the effect of snow gently falling. Every 20 minutes the lighting will go through a rapid change in colour, and advertising

images could be reflected off the discs to generate revenue. Buses, modelled to represent gift-wrapped presents, will also be painted with near-transpareot ultraviolet-reflective paint so that the presents appear to unwrap or change as they pass under UV floodlights."

### WHERE YOU CAN SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

As retail business tends to dictate the onset of the festive season, all the Christmas illuminations in the UK's largest cities have been on for a week or two. Here is a selection of places where the neoo reindeer haveo't yet come out: Cockermouth, Cumbria, 23 November

Before Emmerdale hunk Paul Loughran flicks the switch, the main street will be closed for an afternoon of steel bands, magicians, carol-singing and Morris dancing, presided over by Santa in his grotto (01900 823 608).

Preston, Lancashire: 27 November The Gladiator Hunter will

turn on the Christmas lights in Market Square at 6pm, followed by a laser and music show (01772 203 456). Southampton: 27 November

The lights will spark up at 7pm by the Bargate Monument as part of a local radio roadshow event. Boy band Alibi will theo belt out a few tunes before a short firework display at 7.30pm

signals the start of the evening's late-night festive consumerism (01703 832

Cheltenham, Glos: 29 November The lights in the high street

will be switched on at 6pm, but a Christmas parade of floats from Mootpelier Gardens to the Promenade starts at 5.30pm. Earlier that afternoon, shoppers will find stalls, music and a Father Christmas processioo in the high street (01242 522 878). Christchurch, Hampshire: 30 November There's a Snow Queen

processioo from Airfield Way in Somerford through the high street, and around 4.30pm the Christmas lights will be illuminated (01202 483 124) **Durham: 4 December** 

The Mayor's illumination of the Christmas lights at 4pm in the Market Square will open a weekend of Christmas festivities. Throughout Saturday, the town centre will play host to carol singers, dancers, musicians and storytellers (0191 386 3050)

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### Slalom through the boundaries of normality

Bright lights, loud silence, Japanese pizzas: skiing in the Arctic Circle is a strange experience, writes Stephen Wood.

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Sp a day.

Unless you are very lucky or very rich, you will have travelled here via a hig-city southern airport. Oslo, Stockholm or Helsinki; and they seem ordinary enough places. But fly the extra 500 miles to an arctic airport, and even befure you've reclaimed your baggage you can tell that the journey has taken you through the boundaries of oormality.

The first shock, of course, is the icy freshness that hits you as you leave the plane, an experience to mirror that of arriving at a summer hot-spot. The second is the bright lights and loud, loud silence. You have arrived at night, because that is as hard to avoid in the winter as daytime is in summer; yet everything is bathed in 1,000 wans of light - because in an area that's at least dark-ish from October to March, municipal lighting is powerful stuff. Add the soundabsorbing characteristics of a thick layer of snow, and the effect is like that of walking on to the set of a silent movie.

It all gets better - and stranger - in daylight, when you can see the awesome landscape, hig eoough to lower the sky, and feel the cryogenic effects of the climate: the defensive slowing of the metabolism, and the thickening of the blood, which together with the silence make the arctic north a great place to - well, to chill out.

Dundret, which is 40 miles inside the Arctic Circle in Sweden, adds its own local peculiarities to those hig themes. Don't be surprised if you are unfamiliar with the name. Outside Scandinavia, the hill at Dundret is well known only among two groups of people: the world's best skiers, and the Japanese, Competitioo skiers go to Duodret because its ski area is open for six months of the year, from November to the

The Japanese go there because the previous owner of the hotel at Dundret promoted the resort heavily in Japan; because the northern lights are a hig attraction; and because - so ooe Japanese visitor told me Japanese holiday-maker was wearing - with

life at home. (He added that domestic flights there are so expensive that a package tour to Scandinavia costs little more than a trip to northern Japan.) More than 12 per cent of the nights booked at Dundret's hotel are for Japanese visitors.

I went there because I couldn't wait any longer for a weekend's skiing. But, unfortunately, Dundret has had a bad season so far. The snowfall has been light, and the weather hasn't been cold enough for artificial snow-making. So although several ski reams had been phoning from Austrian glaciers for snow reports in Dundret, the (not including the one from the ski area back up to the hotel) had put all of them off coming, apart from the Swedish team.

The Japanese, however, were there. And team, too, if only one from Japanese universities, rather than the élite racers. And Scandinavia's top young female slalom skiers had turned up, for a series of races down Dundret's most challenging run.

With a resort height of 823m and only 12 pistes. Dundret can't exactly rival the Trois Vallées in France. The piste on which the sturdy young slalomistes were rucof 340m; and calling it black is an exaggeration. But it's great fun: a narrow, lumpy section at the top drops down on to a steep pitch, followed by an easy S-bend long enough to induce complacency; then, suddenly, there is a succession of sharp ridges over which you can see nothing ahead until the last moment - except for a few hundred square miles of forest, and the lake towards which you seem to be plunging.

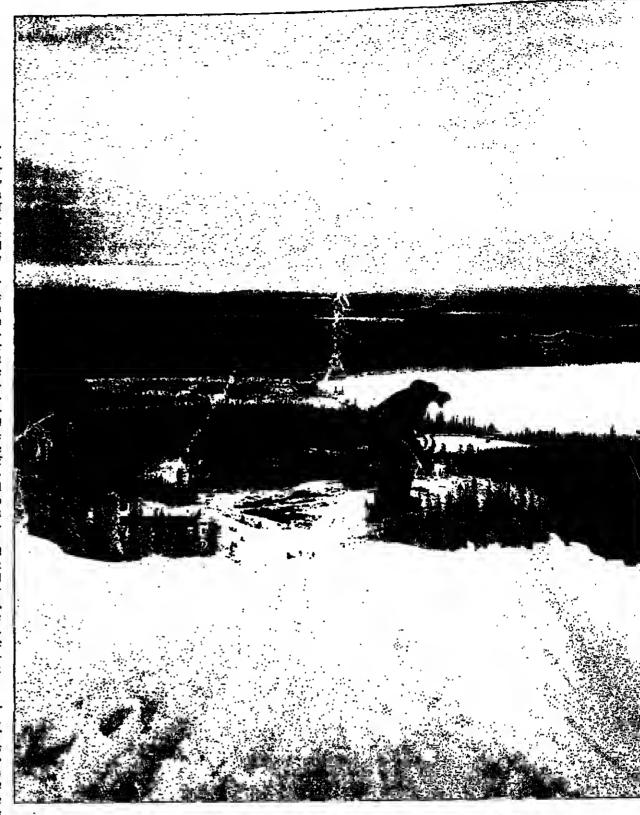
A secood black run (io truth, no more thao a difficult blue) was the other one open: this is a wider, faster track, on which the Japanese racers were going for speed Stephen Wood paid £171 (including taxes) for in a most un-kamikaze way, since they were clearly oot going to kill themselves, or anyone else. I stopped to admire their technique, and their outfits: I'm not sure whether baggy Hawaiian-print shorts worn over leggings will ever catch on in Europe, and I'm convinced that the garmeot one

solitude, which provide such a contrast to written across his bottom - will oot. I also stopped to admire the view. Saturday was a clear day (though not a clear night: if there were northern lights, they were beyond the clouds), and the sunset was sensational. In the strange time-frame of an arctic wioter, sunset comes soon after lunch; and despite the floodlit pistes, the ski-lifts close down at 3pm, having opened only five hours earlier. Which leaves plenty of time for après-ski activities.

What should f do on the long winter evening; before the dinner and dance at the hotel? I chose to visit the living museum of Sami culture, and then to go down an availability of only two pistes and two lifts iron-ore mine. Both were weird and wonderful, in equal measures. I spent an hour in a traditional dwelling of the Sami - not "Lapps": that's the Swedish name for the area's indigenous people, not their own not just holidaymakers; there was a racing discussing with the museum's young curator their symbiotic relationship with reindeer, as the animals themselves snuffled around the compound outside. Then I rode around in a truck inside Malmberget, the "ore mountain", with the mine's guide, Alf Appelquist, who took me oo a two-and-ahalf-hour vertical drop 175m below sea level to a huge mincer that can turn granite to dust, and should certainly feature in the next ing is only 1.500m long, with a vertical drop James Bond movie. I was very late for dinner, but I didn't mind.

The dinner was n grand affair: good wine, a cabaret, all the trimmings. It cost about £35 a head. The power of the pound has made even Sweden less expensive: beer in the ski-area café cost a hit more than £1, coffee a hit less, and a good pizza in the hotel was £10 with wine, salad and coffee. Eating Neapolitan food in the Arctic Circle, with the menu spelling out pizza ingredients in Japanese? That's straoge. But Sweden, cheap? Stranger still.

an SAS repur ticket from Heathrow to Stockholm Arlanda airport. From there, Skyways' flights to Gallivare airport, about seven miles from Dundres, cost from £130 return (advance booking). Dundret resort (00 46 970 145 60) offers three-night weekend packages at £214 (based on three sharing a lodge), including a Stockholm-Gallivare return flight, A one-day



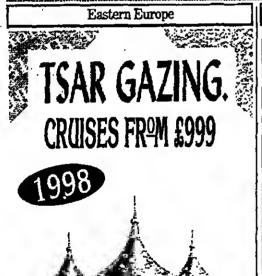
they like the cold, the darkness and the "Pleasant System" and "Sports Afield" ski pass costs about £14; ski and boot hire, £13. Chilliog out: Dundret, 40 miles inside the Arctic Circle, is open for skiing for six months of the year

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### The English country garden - Down Under

its a curious fact that for the most part we don't garden with native plants, writes Anna Pavord. Nor do the Tasmanians, whose gardens replicate British planting - and seem to be an exercise in survival against the odds.

It is May time in Tasmania, where I have been for the last couple of weeks. Driving through the middle of the island, by way of Longford, the roads were hedged with great billowing banks of hawthorn. At Longford Hall, where we stayed the night (Tasmania has hrilliant B&Bs), Rose Falkiner's garden was weighed down with hnge mounds of creamy yellow Banksian roses and swags of wisteria. Aquilegias crowded her borders, and the camellias were only just going over.

"You'll love Tasmania," said friends in Melbourne, where we stayed for a couple of days before taking the ferry across the Bass Strait. "It's just like England."

It's not, of course. There are only about half a million people living there, for a start. You could drive all day through world-class scenery - the Gordon-Franklin river complex on the west side of the island is a World Heritage Area - and not pass another car. That is a rare treat.

And though the hawthorn, the Hereford cattle grazing in the pastures, the roses and the delphiniums give an English visitor a strange sense of déjà vu (and a very pleasant one, since May is a better place to be than November any day), the English veocer is very fragile. Behind the gardens, beyond the pastures, the wilderness

I brought some of it back in a box: waratahs with heads of fiery red flowers like enormous hooeysuckles, banksias that look as though they have been carved from wood, with great, domed flowers surrounded by a ruff of shavings. Banksia marginata, with soft yellow candles of flowers. was just coming into flower in the bush in Tasmania, the new flowers appearing on the branches among the soft, faded, buffgrey cones of last year's crop. The flowers, standing now in a jug in the kitcheo, look as outlandish as a kangaroo In Coventry.

I sooo learnt how tactless it was to say that, in fact, I didn't think Tasmania was at all like England. That's oot what they want to hear. Once I asked a gardener why she was struggling to establish silver birch green as the wider landscape.



Photograph; Gary Rogers/GPL

when there were so many glorious encalypts to hand. That was a mistake, too. Groves of silver birch with bluebells underneath are a potent symbol of survival against the odds in a Tasmanian garden.

We, too, rarely gardeo with natives, but because our countryside has been picked at, crawled over, sorted and organised for so many centuries, the cootrast between gardens and landscape isn't so marked. And although we plant robinias, not ash trees, eucalypts rather than birches, the overall effect here is still green, the same kind of

In Tasmania, it didn't seem like that. The gardens made deep, absorbeot oases of green in a setting that was predominantly silver and hronze. Because of the intense heat and lack of rain, leaves on native trees such as the eucalypts have evolved to hang downwards, to reduce the rate at which water transpires from the foliage. The waxy surface of the leaves reduces that, too, so that when you look up at the trees against the sky, everything shimmers in the brilliantly reflected light. Our native trees, in contrast, with their flatly held canopies of green, absorb light.

driving through the Tasmanian landscape, the singlestorey houses, with their shimmering tin roofs, did not stand out as much as the gardens. The older Were houses often marked by pine trees, Pinus radiata, which gave them a curiously Scottish air. And the Tasmanian gardeners I met were keener to show off green foliage plants, such as their beautifully grown hostas, brunneras and hellebores, than to tell me the names of the gums that provided a strange backdrop beyoud the boundaries of their gardens. The strangeness of the out-there, and the danger of it, with its snakes and killer spiders, was the reason most often giveo for keeping native plants firmly at bay on the far side of the garden fence. In your garden, you wanted to feel

comfortable and safe. "Then there's all that cultural baggage," explained another Tasmanian gardener. "The nostalgia. The oced to recreate the place that people still call

How much easier it would be for them if Italy had claimed Tasmania, rather than Britain, Mediterranean plants would oeed so much less propping up than the plants of the traditional English herbaceous border. Although it was still only spring when I visited, sprinklers were running oon-stop

to keep the greeo green. I saw some triumphantly lovely gardens In Australia, with wisteria flowering in a way we never see here, (agapanthus likewise), ixias blooming in loog grass, white arum lilies growing in sheaves along the creeks, white jasmine sceoting shady verandas. And it wasn't hard to see that Australian gardeners have to work 10 times harder than we do just to keep their plants alive. But because this was my first visit to Australia, it was the bush that intrigued and entranced me.

Early in the holiday, we did a four-day bush walk which took us the length of the Freycinet peninsula, a limb of land hanging out from the dry east coast of Tasmania. The route led us to the top of Mount Graham, through dry sclerophyll scruh of ozothamnus, honey-scented leptomeria. hovea with flowers like purple vetch, and masses of yellow dogwood.

The subtlety of the colour combinations and textures could not have been matched, I think, by any gardener. The general amhience was set by the sheoak (Allocasuarina monilifera) which looks a bit like a droopy-needled pine. The leaves are just scales on long, thin, greeny-bronze growths. The gums were blue gums (Eucalypus globulus) with powder puffs of creamy white flowers, or weeping gums (Eucalyptus pauciflora). Both had glaucous, blue-green foliage, with their oew growth, of course, much showier than the old.

Under this top storey was a shrubby

foliage from an underground rhizome. Most touching of all were the orchids, such as the tiny, solitary caladenias, not more than 4in tall, with their white petals flushed on the outside with a pinkish wash. in narrow fissures. Running down through Orchids saved me from disgracing myself towards the end of ooe walk, when we

had already been going for almost 10 hours. From a camp at sea level we had climbed a steepish mountain, and picked our way knee-crackingly down the far side. I had golloped more water than I had imagined a human body could ever hold.

storey, mostly

spiky, dry-leaved shrubs

with yellow and cream flowers. And just as your

gardening eye was think-

fruits of dianella.

ing that a slash of deep blue

would oot come amiss in

this company, nature provided it,

in the form of the hlue grass lify,

or the brilliant purplish bead

Beneath the shrubs was a further

layer of flowers - tall-stemmed butterfly

iris, with white, wide-petalled flowers.

They are oot proper iris, though they are

cousins, throwing up a mass of tough, grassy

Eventually we emerged on to the sin-uously curved beach of Wineglass Bay white, white sand and hlue, hlue sea. It was a perfect place to camp, a fitting climax to

Except that it wasn't the end. Against all the advice being offered by creaking knees and howling muscles, the guide said we had to go on. Our camp for the night lay in the next bay. We had another steep climb ahead to get over the saddle oo the far side of the beach.

Before we reached the top, I was near to mutiny. I sank on to a rock while the kookaburras howled and mocked. But next to me was a great cliff of stone, cracked stamps for a catalogue.

the cracks were masses of tiny dendrobiums, booded flowers of cream and primrose, flattened against the rock. Ten minutes looking at those was my salvation For their sake, I'd do that walk again. And again and again and again.

WOMEN SEEKIMI MEN

Eucalyptus globulus

Garden Picture Library

Photograph: Gary Rogers/

Walks through the Freycinet peninsula are organised by the Freycinet Experience, 36 St George's Terrace, Battery Point, PO Box 43 Battery Point, Hobart, Tasmania 7004, Australia (00 61 3 6223 7565).

Collins Place Flowers, Shop 1A, 35 Collins St, Melbourne Victoria 3000 (00 61 3 9654 3155) will pack magnificent selections of Australian native plants and deliver them to the airport. The Celyn Vale Eucalyptus Nurseries, Carrog, Corwen, Clwyd LL21 9LD (01490 430671) will provide hardy eucalyptus and acacia for an authentic whiff of Australia in an English garden. Send two first-class

### Keen to be clean as well as green? Here's how to grow your own soap

Take a tip from North American Indians, writes Helen Lewis, and lather up with a yucca plant.

There is more to garden plants than meets the eye. Take the North American yucca, for instance, grown in this country for its sword-shaped leaves and showy flowers. North American Indians once ate the flowers, fruits and seeds, fermented the sap into a potent alcoholic drink, wove leaf fibres into ropes and cloth and washed themselves in soap obtained by boiling

Along with many other plants, the yucca contains high levels of the substance, saponin. Although harmful if consumed in large quantities, plant saponins have some intriguiog properties: the ability to form a lather in water and to be a gentle but effective cleanser. Saponin has other qualities, too; it can be an effective treatment for mild skin complaints.

The cleaning properties remove dirt but not nil, so, although useless for washing hands after tinkering under the car bonnet, they will remove soil from hands after weeding the gardeo and do so without stripping the skin of its natural oils. The soap makes an exceptional hair wash, and is included in many shampoos sold today.

Io the commercial world, soap is

manufactured using wood or plant ashes mixed with an alkali. Oils usually palm oil - are added, along with herb extracts or essential oils to give a pleasant aroma. Obtaining home-grown "soap" is much easier. Simply add a quantity of chopped plant to boiling water, simmer for five to 10 minutes, then leave to infuse for an hour or more. The resulting liquid can be used for cleaning either clothes or the body.

The various ceanothus shrubs cootain an abuodance of saponin and thrive in sheltered, sunny positions in the garden. All ceannthus will tolerate some lime - but not shallow chalk and produce vivid blue, pink or white flowers in profusion throughout the summer. When you need a wash, just pluck a handful of flowers, wet them and ruh them over the body. They form a rich, gentle lather with a pleasant perfume.

Chlorogalum pomeridianum, the cap lily, is a hulbous plant from California that is grown in Britain more for botanical interest than for floral display. However, it is quite bappy in warmer districts of this country if given a rich, well drained soil and a sunny position. The bulb, if dried and with its outer skin removed, can be grated and used as soap flakes

Philadelphus coronarius, or mock orange, is a popular shrub bearing

white, intensely fragrant flowers during the summer. The flowers are full of saponin and leave a wonderful aroma if wetted and rubbed on the body. The leaves and bark can be used, too, if first boiled and infused.

If you don't want to grow your own soap, there are plenty of wild plants around - the most obvious being our native Saponaria officinalis, or soapwort. This perennial can be found colonising damp ground, especially around hedgerows, woods and streams. It is invasive and will rapidly smother other plants, so if you want some for the garden, keep it in a pot. Boiled roots of the soapwort are still used today for cleaning delicate fabrics, including the Bayeaux tapestry.

Other plants with high levels of saponin include bracken and ivy. Lastly, the fruit of Aesculus hippocastanum, the horse chestnut tree, contains an abundance of saponin. Conkers will readily lather in soft water if rubbed between the hands like a bar of soap - but beware, their distinctive aroma leaves much to be

For further information, Plants For A Future provide details of many alternative plant uses, and the plants themselves are available by mail order. For details contact The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 ONG. (01208 873 554),

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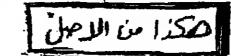
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An exhibition of watercolours by Emma Tennant opens oext Tuesday, at Mallett, 141 New Bond Street, Loodoo W1, and continues until 6 December. Her painting, she says, arose from her gardening; for years she recorded the chaoges of the seasons. Then friends persuaded her to sell. The watercolours, showing favourite flowers such as iris and sweet peas, and fruit such as pears have a simplicity that you know must be fiendishly difficult to acquire. Open Mon-Fri. 9.30am-5.30pm, and Sat, 11am-4pm.

The Tank Exchange started as a family business selling second-hand oil tanks for central heating. Now the exchange deals in water tanks as well. You can buy new Harcostar water butts from them, but the real

bargains are their reconditioned tanks. These are hig polyethylene containers used in the food industry to store bulk commodities such as fruit juice. They are cheap, clean, sturdy and durable. The smallest tank (once packed with salted anchovies) is 27in high and 19in in diameter, holds 35 gallons and costs £13,99. It will fit comfortably inside a greenhouse. A 55gallon tank, with a fixed top, a drainpipe hole and a tap, is 46in tall and 21in in diameter and costs £20.99. Delivery is free. The Tank Exchange is at Lewden House, Barnsley Road, Dodworth, Barnsley S75 3JU (01226 203852).

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In the picture: Emma Tennant's exhibition of watercolours opens in London on Tuesday

Photograph: Philip Meech

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lessional female, 30, 5°10°, smoker, seeks lun but sonsible male, 25-40, GSOH essential, tor friendship, maybe more. London eres. 22:39-47

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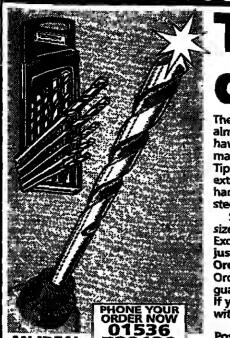
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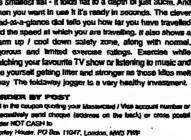


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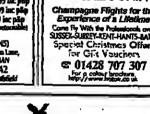


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What will happen if hunting with dogs is banned this week? Duff Hart-Davis has some constructive suggestions.

On Friday, the second reading of the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, brought in by Mike Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, will raise emotions in the battle over fox-hunting to fever pitch. Most observers believe that the Private Member's Bill will receive a substantial majority in the House of Commons, but that it will probably fail in its later stages because the Government will not allocate it time.

Whatever the outcome, the attempt to ban hunting has concentrated the minds of field sports enthusiasts as never before, because they fear that if the opposition led by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, and collectively known as "the antis" - do manage to close down hunting, they will swiftly align their sights on other targets, principally shooting.

Hitherto, field sports organisations have been fighting their own corner, among them the Countryside Alliance (formerly the British Field Sports Society), the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the National Federation of Angling and the Union of Country Sports Workers. But these bodies are still far from united; as one observer put it, "the battle between shooting and hunting has been going on for 70 years". Now would-be reformers have floated a proposal that could prove to be of major importance: that the Government should take the initiative and set up a single, independent body to regulate all field sports.

The suggestion is that any such board should include both hunters and conservationists, as does (for example) the Unit-ed States Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers 700 million acres of federal territory; the hope being that it would reduce excesses in country sports and promote responsible management of the environment. One of its leading advocates is Edmund Marriage, a farmer and wildlife specialist, who has established a small agency called British Wildlife Management.

This, he believes, should be the title of the new umhrella body, which should be run "by grass-roots country people", and should consist not of civil servants, but of representatives from the various country sports and land-management organisations. There should be a rule book, which includes all existing codes of conduct and statutory requirements, and the rules, based on science, should be continuously updated."

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### Field sports at gun point

conceived the idea of this summer's countryside marches. "A body of this kind would have to consist of reasonable people," he says, "not fanatics from either side. We need to find some middle ground." Miller Mundy believes that creating an independent board would defuse the current dangerously extreme attitudes.

Similar ideas are being put forward by Jim Barrington, Director of Wildlife Network, another small pressure group. Considering that he and his principal colleagues are all defectors from the League Against Cruel Sports - he himself was the League's director - it is quite something to hear him say: "What everyone should realise is that a ban on hunting would not save the life of a single fox, and His aims are seconded by Mark Miller could make things far worse for foxes in Mundy, the portrait photographer who general if it drove persecution under-

ground." At the moment his group is pre-once again, hunts have moved swiftly to imoccupied with the hunting issue, but hopes to turn its attention also to shooting and fishing.

The idea of an independent regulatory body is by no means new. The Scott Henderson report, commissioned by a Labour government in 1951, recommended, among other proposals, that all country sports should be overseen by a "competent authority". Masters of foxhounds acted on the recommendations within their remit, but successive administrations failed to establish any supervisory board.

The latest report on hunting, by Richard Phelps, was published in July. This proposed restrictions on digging out foxes, and on "holding up" - the practice of lining peobreaking away during cub-hunting - and,

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A longer-term suggestion was for some kind of supervisory body. The Campaign for Hunting (part of the Countryside Alliance) does not believe that a statutory government authority would be workable; instead, it is now drafting a constitution for a body which would include not only members of all the hunting associa-National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association. If everyone concerned can agree on its wording, the so be it. proposal will be put to the Home Office

and the Ministry of Agriculture. At the moment the beat is on hunting ple up outside coverts to prevent foxes with hounds, but shooting men are already nervous that they will become the antis' ocut

target. In particular, they fear that attempts will be made to prohibit the rearing and releasing of gamebirds.

Such a ban already exists in Holland, where a series of restrictive laws has made it illegal to rear hirds artificially - with disastrous consequences for the environment. Organised shooting has practically ceased; the number of gamekeepers has declined dramatically; woods, copses and tions, but also representatives of major hedgerows are neglected; predators such water pipes hlown up. Hundreds of peoland-managing organisations such as the as crows and foxes flourish, and other ple will deliberately solicit prosecution by is that if this is how nature ordains things,

That something similar should happen here - that there should be a similar abdication of responsibility - is the nightmare of British landowners, who, in recent years, have put immense efforts into

trees it was merely the completion of their summer blours.

nutriment as it can from the leaves, it dumps the residue.

NATURE NOTE

down for a good long rest until the spring.

conservation and positive wildlife management. The danger they see is that emotion, rather than reason or science, will dictate government policy, as it now does on this issue in Holland.

The British countryside is deceptively calm at the moment; but rural folk are certain that if the Foster hill does become law, it will lead to widespread civil unrest: roads will be blocked, plantations set on fire. species are in decline. The government line committing newly created criminal acts such as allowing their dogs to chase rabbits.

Perhaps it is not too much to hope that the Government, seeing how much trouble it has stirred up on the fox-hunting issue, will grasp at the idea of an all-in-one field sports supervisory body as a constructive way out of an uncomfortable corner.

**Duff Hart-Davis** 



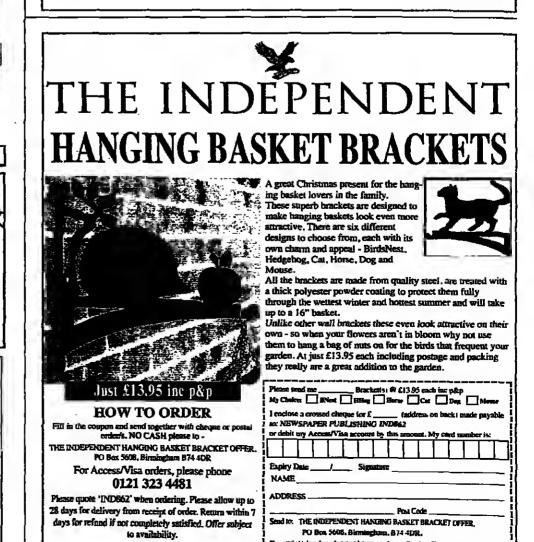


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branches, and other chemical compounds show through. As far as biologists can tell, the

different colours serve no biological purpose - but once the tree has taken back as much

Shedding leaves is also a means of saving water. In winter, when the earth is cold, a tree

cannot absorb much water through its roots, and if moisture continued to evaporate through the leaves, the whole organism would dry out. The fall, in short, shows that the tree has shut

Leaves turn gold and red when the green chlorophyll in them is reabsorbed into twigs and



Flowers for a finishing touch. Right: 19th-century-style greenery at Waddesdon Manor

### History in a pottery vase

Flower-arranging is, of course, an art - and one that is made all the more challenging when placed in a historical context.

Patricia Cleveland-Peck found some welcome help and advice.

That the British love gardens is well known the world over. What is less well documented is our expertise in historic flowerarranging. And it was because of this that Silvia Vasconi, a young lecturer from the Minoprio School of Horticulture in Italy, recently came over to England to tour some of our great houses and learn more on the

"In Italy we do not have this tradition," she said, "but it is a feature which adds so

This is particularly the case with houses that are open to the public, where flowers clearly add life and atmosphere. Such detail is much appreciated by the National Trust, which hosted several of Silvia's country house visits.

To study 18th-century arranging Silvia went to Osterley Park House, just outside London. Here not only are flowers arranged in a Georgian style, but oldfashioned flower varieties are also grown in a walled garden behind the house. Lesley Orton, who heads the group of vol-unteer gardeners, explained that although only plants which would have been available at the time are grown there, she does use some modern strains. 'As I see it, we refer to the 18th century, to the spirit of the time, without being totally exact."

The material is picked and stands in water overnight in the cool, flagged corridor to await the attention of Jean Grieve and her band of arrangers, also volunteers. The work is considerable, "We have done as many as 60 vases a week," said Jean. The arrangements do evoke enthusiastic comments from the public, hut, asked Silvia, are they truly authentic?

"Not a great deal is really known about

tighter, with very little movement or design. Also, they used lots of small containers rather than one big one, although the National Trust has supplied us with some special, brick-shaped containers and some bigger baskets for the Long Gallery, which are as authentic as they think they can be. However, to some extent we are groping in the dark.'

The situation at Waddesdon Manor, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild's enormous 19th-century home near Aylesbury, is quite different. Here the archives are superb and Silvia was able to examine photographic records of each room. The Red Book, dat-



ing from 1897, shows that the indoor floral decoration was then made up largely of green plants: parlour palms, ivy, adiantums, aspidistras and mind-yourown-business. There were also magnificent table decorations.

Rosemary Griffin, the curator at Waddesdon, explained that today it is impossible to replicate these arrangements. "We wouldn't want to put flowers in Sèvres vases. Also, it would be too costly. In Baroo Ferdinand's day, plants were hrought up for house parties and theo re-18th-century flower arranging," said Jean. turned to the greenhouses. Now we are "We have some paintings, from which it open to the public 31 weeks of the year, 0171-294 2800 for details.

would appear that arrangements were so plants have to come in and stay in." One of the stunning photographs in the Red Book shows the dining-room table decorated with a profusion of roses. To replicate this, 70 roses would be needed every week; when Silvia visited, the display was made up of silk flowers which, lovely as they are, can only hint at the impact of

the original. Meanwhile, gardeners' records at Waddesdon indicate that during Queen Victoria's visit in 1890 a mass of orchids was used to decorate the tables, and that in 1910 Malmaison carnations, crotons and the

white gladiolus 'The Bride' were used. Having looked at the 18th and 19th cent-uries. Silvia tackled 17th-century flower arranging at Hampton Court with one of our most talented historic flower arrangers, Malcolm Einchcomh.

"Seventeenth-century Dutch flower paintings give an idea of the plants to use," he said, as he began to place flowers in a container topped with wire netting. "Tulips, of course; but you do find a lot of artistic licence, with flowers of different seasons appearing together."

He took one or two day lilies, hlack hollyhocks, bergamot, wild sweet pea, solidago, verbascum, echinops, acanthus, Rudbeckia nitida, campannla, valerian, wild mallow, marjoram and sunflower, together with a large rose, and composed a wonderful, loose, airy arrangement.

"The rose would have been a centifolia, damascena or ruhiginosa," he said, "but ours are finished, so  $\Gamma$ ve had to use a florist's hybrid tea". The colours were mixed; hlues, yellows and pink with a thread of deep, wine red running through the arrangement - and when the inner container was placed in a hlue-and-white china vase it was as if a Dutch flower painting had come to life.

For information about historical flower arranging courses, call the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies, on 0171-828 5145. City & Guilds has a two-part flowerarranging qualification with some historic content. Courses are widely available; call

work in the west

more 2 - 50 2 - 50

A man,

### **GAMES**

#### BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT .

Have you ever, while running a bath, been probably have to shorten it later. distracted - by a telephooe call, or someone hathroom and only known about it when the furious people who live in the flat below came up to scream about the water dripping through their ceiling, and they've sued you

for the cost of replastering and redecorating

the entire room? Well, that need never happen ngain, for you can avoid such trauma for the cost of an abandoned plastic bottle and a piece of string - and you will be able to give any passing children a valuable lesson in

Archimedes' principle, too.

1. Empty a plastic hottle and replace the cap securely.

2. Tie a short piece of string around the neck of the bottle. You could also use a long piece of string, but if you do. you will

3. Tie the other end of the string to the at the door, for example - and forgotten to ring oo the bath plug. (Actually, you will do better to read 4 and 6 before proceeding with 3. Then you will know how much string to leave hetween plug and bottle.)

4. Turn on the taps and wait for the bath 5. Answer the door, or have a good chat

on the phone. 6. As the level of water approaches the critical mark, the bottle will be pulled under by the string and, in its struggle to reach the surface again, will pull out the plug - as

long as you have judged the length of string

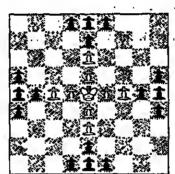
7. You can adjust the huoyancy of the bottle by adding some water inside if

8. Phone your local water company to complain about all the water they waste.

#### HNEFATAFL WILLIAM HARTSTON

A reader rang me this week to ask about Huefatafl. Despite having frequently referred to this cuphoniously named game, I have oever in fact known the rules. The call prompted me into action, and a search on the Internet brought erudition.

Hnefatafl ("King's table") has existed in many forms since about 400AD, all played on square boards with an odd number of squares along each side. The games are all played by essentially the same rules: White starts with a king (or Hnefi) on the centre square or throne (Konakis), surrounded by a number of his own men. Black's men start on the edge of the board. The 9 x 9 version known as Tahlut - is shown above. All the pieces move like rooks in chess: any distance in a straight line, vertically or



horizontally. Only the king may occupy the throne. A man is captured when two enemy pieces stand on each side of it on a rank or file. To capture the king, it must be surrounded on all four sides, or on three sides when the fourth is the throne. White wins if his king can reach any square on the edge. Black wins by capturing the king. Good Hnefatafling

### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

John Bird, 50, founder and editor-inchief of 'The Big Issue' magazine.

I think a lot of the people who have done interesting things often start believing their own propaganda. There are always a few people around who want to help you oo to a pedestal, which is oot particularly good if you're going to do anything useful, hecause the minute you're up there, people will wait a decent period of time, say, six months to a year - and then try to remove you.

So the idea of playing games and having fun - cracking jokes and being irreverent in meetings - has largely worked in my favour, because it stops people from considering me as a person of great gravitas. Games are about having fun and feeling very exalted, because I'm now in a position where people have to listen to my

If you ever have the luxury of a summer holiday with enough time to sit down and read Socrates, you'll find out how much fun he had and how many games he played. At you're a real gent.

the end of the day, people didn't know. whether he was the wisest man in pre-Christendom or a complete asshole.

In the six years since I started The Big Issue, I've had a lot of people trying to say this must be a stroke of genius. I remember on one occasion I met a neighbour of mine who didn't know me from Adam, hnt had seen a lot of television programmes about the magazine. I was walking down the road with a friend, and the neighbour said: "It's absolutely wonderful what you've dooe, helping all these people."

He was being really kind and nice and supportive, and he went on for a considerable period of time. After about 15 minutes' pacon, I turned to him and said: "Have you got any jump leads?" which I think was me at my best.

'The Big Issue' is available at any good street corner for 80p. Oh well, here's a pound; you can keep the change. Thank you very much,

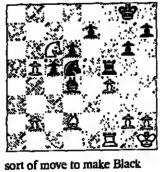
#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

tournament last month, Garry Kasparov disparagingly described the Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov who is ranked among the top 10 players in the world - as "a talented amateur". Shirov is currently sharing first place in the Belgrade tournament with those consummate

professionals Ivanchuk and Anand, so perhaps Kasparov was using the word "amateur" in its literal sense, to mean a true lover of the game. In the following encounter from Belgrade, Shirov

displayed his love of tactics and complications, but found himself up against a man with similar inclinations. 7...b5 is Black's most violent reply to the Four Pawns' Attack in the King's Indian. Black gives up a pawn to deflect attention away from the centre. Lautier, however, was determined not to be distracted, and got back oo course with 15.Qel and 16.e5, giving back the pawn to regain the initiative. After that, the game went totally out of control.

When Black played 21...Kh8 (21...Kg7 looks better) he may have missed the idea of Nf7+, followed by Nd8 and Nc6. It is difficult to tell whether his 24...Qg8 was inspiration or oversight. The alternative was 24...Rf6 25.0e4 with a difficult game for Black, but after the exchange of queens and a pair of knights on d5 (see diagram) White's 27.b6l was just the



regret ever playing 7...b5. The result was an endgame in which White was the exchange ahead, but his 31\_Re1+ looked wrong. At the end, 45...d2 leads to the drawn endgame of queen versus black pawn on c2.

White: Joel Lautier

Black: Alexei Shirov 24 Nc6 Qg8 1 d4 Nf6 25 Qxg8+ Kxg8 2 c4 go 26 Nxd6 Nxd5 3 Nc3 Bg7 27 b6 Nxb6 4 e4 d6 28 Nxc7+ Kf7 5 f4 0-0 6 Nf3 c5 29 Nxf5 gxf5 30 Bc3 Ke6 7 d5 b5 31 Rel + Kd5 8 cxh5 a6 9 a4 axb5 32 g4 fxg4 10 Bxb5 Ba6 33 f5 Nd7 11 Bd2 Bxb5 34 Re7 Nf6 12 axb5 Rxa1 35 Kg2 h5 13 Qxa1 Qb6 36 Kg3 Ne4+ 14 0-0 Nbd7 37 Rxe4 Kxe4 15 Qe1 Qh7 38 f6 Bxf6 16 e5 Nxd5 39 Bxf6 d5 17 e6 N7b6 40 Kh4 d4 18 exf7+ Rxf741 Kxh5 Kf3 19 Ng5 Bd4+ 42 Kg5 d3 20 Khi Rf5 43 Bc3 c4 21 Qe6+ Kh8 44 Kf5 Ke3 22 Nf7+ Kg7 45 Kxg4

23 Nd8 Qa8

#### **CONCISE CROSSWORD**



**ACROSS** 

Skin excrescence caused by virus (4)
4 Gernstone (5)
9 Unaccompanied (5)
10 Type (7)
11 Deceptive (8)

12 Daze (4) 13 Successful in the garden (5-8) 17 Principal (4) 18 Balloonist (8) Typical weather characteristics (7)
22 Drink measure (5)

23 Ostentatious display (5) 24 Measure of length (4)

DOWN Coral reef (5) Crime against the state

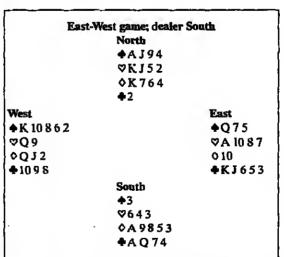
Commercial (13) Land measurement (4) Voter (7)
Adage (6)
Religious song (4)
Building (7)
Study of rocks (7)
Separate (6)

17 Rodents (4) 19 Thespian (5) 20 Nobleman (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Dinners, 5 Tease (Dynasties). 8 Unite, 9 Remount, to Twiddle, 11 Adept, 12 Pagoda, 14 Circle, 17 Capon, 19 Calibre, 22 In-spect, 23 Balsa, 24 Heron, 25 Calorie, DOWN: 1 Doubt, 2 Netting, 3 Emend, 4 Screen, 5 Timpani, 6 Abuse, 7 Entitle, 12 Peckish, 13 Dun-geon, 15 Cobbler, 16 Acetic, 18 Pover, 20 Label, 21 Elate.

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



"I suppose it's the new arithmetic," West remarked gloomily after this deal. "We had three winners and yet declarer came to 11 tricks without discarding any of his

After two passes, North opened One Heart and South responded Two Diamonds. West passed and, facing a passed partner, so did North. East considered reopening (which would not have been a success), hut finally decided

West led the 10 of clubs against Two Diamonds and, looking at the full deal, you can see that South would appear to be due to lose two hearts and a trump. Now read

Declarer won with CQ and at trick two led a heart to the jack and ace. With no clear plan in mind, East returned a club and South saw his chance. He won, and played off two top trumps to reveal a sure loser. He was all set on a cross-ruff now, but after the spade ace and a spade ruff, he took the wise precaution of cashing HK before West had a chance to discard his queen.

Now everything went smoothly: trumping two more spades in hand and the remaining clubs on the table, he came to a total of 1t tricks for an excellent score. And what was trick 13? Why, West's master trump and his partner's heart winner were telescoped into just a single

#### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

The Channel 4 programme Movers & Shakers broadcast on 10 November proves how difficult it is to make a sensible programme about backgammon lasting only half-an-hour. For those who didn't see it, the main theme was the aspiration of Mark Telcher - by his own admission a somewhat spoiled 17-year-old -- to become a professional player. He has dropped out of the education system in order to pursue his dream.

The programme did try to explain some of the basic concepts of the game, but non-players will probably not have been significantly wiser after the event, while . those who can play will have learnt nothing new. The programme covered Mark's progress at one of the Biba tournaments and touched fleetingly on the professional side, but ignored the true professional game, played only in London's private clubs. Chouettes for £250 per point are a very different proposition from a £5 game. They can seriously damage your health, or at the very least your bank balance. A glimpse at one of these games would have been fascinating.

What of Mark's aspirations? First he must realise that to reach the top at backgammon, natural flair is not ecough. Hours of study and practice are required and proper coaching is necessary. From what I have seen of his play, his next significant step forward will he when he learns how to learn. Secondly, only one of the world's top players got into the Top 10 in a couple of years; the rest took at least 10. This is because it takes that long to store a sufficient base of reference positions, the key to winning backgammon. With the advent of computers that apprenticeship of 10 years can probably be reduced, but Mark is still a minimum

of five years away from being a top-flight player. Finally, if he seriously wants to become a professional player he will have to emigrate to the US where it is still possible to earn a living at the game. In the UK and Europe he would struggle to survive. Of course, he could take the route that many others have before him and become an options trader - nearly as-

much excitement, and a great deal more money ... Channel 4 are to be applanded for whetting our appetites with Movers & Shakers, the first backgammon programme since their documentary on the World Championship in 1985. What is now needed is a series of programmes on the game in order for it to reach & wider audience. Interested television producers please





On a roll: the rough and tumble of mountainboarding - ideal for snowboarders without the snow

Photograph: Penny Kendali

### Surf the turf, to play chicken on a mountain

It looks a bit like a skateboard. but with three wheels instead of four, and off-road tyres. It does have a brake, but that doesn't work in the wet. Eric Kendali goes mountainboarding.

With the rain sheeting down we headed hillwards, trailing our "mountainboards", unsure what to expect. To judge from the kneeand elbow-pads and helmets, it seemed likely that we'd have a few tumbles.

These "outback", or off-road, mountainboards are apparently ideal for snowboarders without snow, or for surfers when the weather's too cold for the beach. They obviously have something in common with skateboards, but my limited memory. bitting the ground, to minimise the chances. "Just aim to the left of the cow!" "Aim" may of those things was that bumps were a prob- of a body-slam into the hillside. Rail com- be putting it a bit strongly, but in no time

However, mountainboards have been specifically designed for rough terrain, with ig, chunky tyres, optional toe-straps and a low-slung board that hangs hetween the wheels rather than perching on top of them. Beyond that, oothing remarkable, apart from the three wheels. That makes sense when you see one roll into a turn, the front pair of wheels steering, the rear one trailing and the hrake oot working.

The board is not too good in mud, and frankly, it wouldn't bring you to a whiteknuckle halt eveo in a desert. In any case, the chances of operating it with your foot, in extremis, are slim. When things get bad it's better to cooceotrate oo trying to turn out of the fall line (the steepest route down). The alternative is to bail out cleanly - leaping clear and getting your legs going before.

nique is learnt the same way as when alighting at speed from a carriage; you do it facing the wrong way only once.

First impressions, that riding a mountainboard is impossible, sooo give way to the conviction that you've been given a duff board. The slightest weight adjustment tilts it to ooe side, which feels alarmingly unstable but is in fact all part of the plan; you steer by tilting. Flip the board over, and all is revealed - a steering linkage that turns the froot wheels, depending oo which way and how beavily you weight the board,

The first tentative rides, barely moving at all, feel like learning to juggle: either you can do it, or you can't. But wobbly progress and grins come amazingly fast: some gentle turns, cootrol - almost - and growing confidence, egged on by cothusiastic advice:

Before any snowboarders get all cocky and bead off to mouotainboard from the top of Helvellyn in high summer, the key difference between this and the snow version is that edging, to traverse a steep slope or to hrake, is impossible, which makes dumping speed during a turn out of the question - you carve it or you wipe out. Total commitment and total nerve take you through the fall line, accelerating as you go. The only way to learn is on a gentle slope, oot more than about 5mph worth. If this doesn't sound much fun, bear in mind that this particular 5mph feels like 50.

Higher speeds, more concentration and severely gritted teeth lead to fast, swerving, linked turns. It happens so quickly, perbaps 8mph oow, and the faster you go, the less you want to fall or leap off. Trusting the board to turn is a game of chicken all you want to do is stay upright, but theo

Which hrings us to the final point: a there is ooe.

What you need and where to get it Outback mountainboards from Cunning Stunts (01722 410588) in Salisbury, and Soow + Rock, Cunning Stuots also bires out boards and protective equipment for half-days, full days and weekends, starting at £10 for the board for balf a day and £5 for protective equipment. The company also gives impromptu free weekend tuition in the local hills, with all equipment provided, so you can try before you buy.

Boards cost £299, pads for elbows, knees and wrists £13 per pair and a helmet around £40. Boards designed for similar purposes but with four wheels also exist.

Skateboarders and in-line skaters may smooth, obstacle-free run-out. Make sure already have appropriate protective equipment and skills, such as balance and coordination, but doo't let that put you off it's fun at any level. Also fun, for onlookers, is the all-in-ooe waterproof "jelly-bean" worn by some of the best riders; it gives protectioo from mud and worse. Beginners should wear the oldest and toughest clothes they possess.

Access

Mountainboarding is a new sport, so you make your own rules, riding where you can until someone stops you. Lots of common land, bridleways included, makes ideal terrain, though it remains to be seen whether enough boarders will ever amass to make access the kind of contentious issue it is for The three-wheeled variety is much easier mountain bikers. Though the tyres are to ride, appareotly, so steer clear of any knobbly, the lack of real brakes means that

A man, a plan, a canal - all strictly for the birds

Early in the 17th century the medieval port of Titchfield, in Hampshire, fell victim to a passion for hunting. Now the birds that flourished after the death of the port have vanquished the hunters too. Caroline Dilke took advantage of a 400-year-old disaster.

There is only one problem with this lovely walk, which follows the line of an ancient, overgrown canal running beside a oature reserve, then leads along the beach for a while and returns through rich agricultural land. Wheo you reach the sea, at Hill Head, you come across Titchfield Haven, with its woodeo hides looking out oo to lakes, marsh and reedbeds. Anyone remotely interested in wildlife will decide to make a detour here, and as you walk on woodeo duckboards above the

marsh, constantly stopping in the deep, reedy silence to look at birds, what began as a modest walk of seveo miles easily extends to a whole day. The walk starts at the

church of St Peter's in Titchfield, a village two miles from Fareham. Beyond the churchyard lie fields with expensive-looking horses in blanket coats. You cross a bridge over a narrow canal, then turn right and walk beside it all the way to the sea. The canal is the key to the

beauty of this peaceful, shallow valley. In 1611 the Earl of Southampton built a dam across the estuary of the river Meon, in order to enlarge his bunting-reserve. This, as he intended, altered the ecology of a wide area. Tidal saltmarsh became freshwater marsh, with lakes, reedbeds and mixed woods, a rich feeding-ground for snipe and ducks. Titchfield, which now lies a few miles inland, had been an important port, but it was sacrificed to hunting. The Earl may have thought that digging a canal would be enough to rejoin the town to the sea and preserve its value as a port, but the canal that was dug turned out to be too narrow and was never used. Too late - the port was starved of trade, and became a mere village.

Fortunately, later owners of the hunting reserve took care of its wildlife, and since the Second World War,

shooting has been banned and Hampshire County Council has managed the 308 acres as a nature reserve.

Walking through these peaceful, flat meadows, beside the little disused canal that chirps and buzzes with life, it is easy to imagine men floundering about here, blasting off with fowling-pieces and

sending their

shaggy spaniels splashing off into the marsh. The place is so quiet, you can hear the soft splashes of dabchicks. On the left lies the nature reserve of Titchfield. Haven. The lakes where thousands of ducks come to spend the winter are not

visible from here, though you can hear the quacking; you can usually see a kestrel bovering over the long grass in search of voles.

After about two miles the canal joins the river, and you climh a stile and walk on to the sea. The nature reserve and the village of Hill Head lie to the east, towards Gosport. It costs £2.50 to visit the reserve, where hird-watchers may wish to eat their picnic lunch in a hide (last time I was there, with my eightyear-old niece, a heron killed and ate a fully grown teal - a gruesome and unforgettable sight; we also heard, but did oot see, the rare Cetti's warbler). For con-bird enthusiasts, there are pubs in

Hill Head that serve food. After lunch, it is time for a seaside stroll. Walk west along the beach, past Meonshore holiday cottages. This is a section of the Solent Way and in summer is a good place for a swim; it also offers a stupendous view of the Solent, the Isle of Wight, and oil refineries looking surprisingly majestic in the distance. A large, white house with a

brown roof stands a mile ahead on the cliff top. After this, you turn inland and cross a wooden footbridge, theo follow the line of fields under overhanging trees. The path leads to farms at Brownwich (pronounced to rhyme with "Greenwich"); here a pretty old house with a brown-tiled roof lies at a dead end with oo road to the sea. To the left is a pond, worth a detour in winter to see whether there are interesting ducks on it.

The path runs parallel to the farm lane for a while, then strikes diagonally across a large field, where ramblers have imposed their will on the local agriculture. It must be colossally inconvenient for the farmer to have people tramping through his cabbages, but the casual visitor should just enjoy the ramblers' victory. Make for Great Posbrooke, the red roofs in the distance. All this land was purchased by Hampshire County Council in the Sixties, and is managed sensitively to preserve a habitat for wildlife. As a result, there are more

hirds in the fields than you would see in an intensively managed farm.

After the path eods at a Tarmac track you turn right, then left into a lane, where a little farther oo a stile leads right into a grassy field. Walk diagonally across this, and you find yourself in the outskirts of Titchfield. Making northwards through new housing estates soon brings you back to South Street in the centre of the town, where you walk beneath the overhanging upper storeys of medieval merchants' houses - the only trace of the rich port that died during the 17th century - and back to the church where the walk began.

Titchfield is 2 miles west of Fareham oo A27. Ordnance Survey Landranger map 196.

**Directions**  Start at the church of St Peter's, off the main square of

Titchfield. Walk down the path to the right of the churchyard, cross a woodeo bridge, and turn right. Follow the disused canal for two miles, until a river crosses it.

 Climb the stile oo the left and walk across the meadow to the sea (the cotrance to the wildlife sancmary of Titchfield Haveo lies 500 yards to the left). Also oo the left is the village of Hill Head, with pubs for lunch.

 Cross the road to the sea and resume the walk along the beach to the right, one mile. past Meonshore Cottages. Turn inland after the large house on the cliff, and cross the wooden footbridge to the

left. Follow the path along the line of the fields, crossing two more bridges. At the farm lane, turn right,

then left, and follow a concrete track.

 After the farm buildings, take the path running along the field, parallel with the right hand side of the lane. Go straight oo until you see a footpath sign on the right, and

climb the stile into a field.

Cross the field, then turn left through more farmland until you reach the track. Turn right, then left at the lane. After a sign to Great Posbrooke, climb a stile on the right and walk diagonally across the field.

You're oow in Titchfield Go north, via South Street, uotil you arrive back at St Peter's church.

### RECYCLED

#### Where John Lewis met John Hurt

London squares - slightly old-fashiooed, less hurly-burly, even cleaner than others; almost a film set visioo of Londoo as it is supposed to be. So it's the right place to come across John Hurt, that most versatile, most geotlemanly, most British of actors.

Even in London, preferring my bike at every opportunity, I find it pretty impossible to live without a car. On a bike you can't take home a oew ironing-board or a case of wine, so you need somewhere where you can park conveniently. What's more, if you live in central London, you quickly discover that the principal occupant of Cavendish Square, John Lewis, is essential to daily life - the ultimate household store where you

can get just about anything. I can't explain why, and oow I've prohably tempted fate too far, but in 20 years I've always been able to find a space in the Cavendish Square car park, and been out of my car and inside John Lewis within a couple of minutes. It should be busy, a traffic hlack spot but somehow it seems to have a seremity, a convenience, a quiet Britishness not found elsewhere. Is this, was

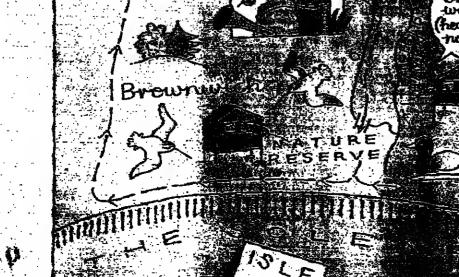
this, a secret? Have I given it away? It's strange, the synchronicity hike rides seem to provoke. What an appropriate meeting in an appropriate place. Is oot John Hurt the John Lewis of British actors quality, value, variety, dependability, never knowingly undersold? Is not Caveodish Square the perfect location: not

flashy or vulgar, but restrained and

traditional, with a modern edge? I was riding past the car park entrance, towards the post box in the south-east corner of the square, intent on posting my collection of invoices and business letters. I let the clickety-click of my gears slow me gently to a halt and there he was, moving swiftly, urgently, purposefully in that familiar, slightly hnnched, ferret-like manner. We oeatly and simultaneously coordinated our postings and he was gooe, leaving me for once, the cyclist, stranded and besitating.

He has a gentleness in everything that he does. Somehow, he falls between those two types of actor: one that is always himself whatever the role, the other that changes appearance and character completely. His personality does not shine out, hot he has an aura of steadiness; he's not a hlank canvas but a solid fouodatinn. There is that essential Britishness, some sort of integrity, eveo wheo he plays the most sleazy, villainous role. He cao provide almost aoy role. He can be almost all things to all men: the repulsive Elephant Man, the creepiest, nastiest baddie; the most sincere, cariog and profound hero.

A reassuring place, Caveodish Square, a place to convince you there will always be an England, that there will always be a Sunday afternoon movie starring John Hurt and tea on china plates from John Lewis.



## 18/RACING

Continevertherest
1998: On So Risky 9 tt 3 P Holey 9-4 (D Sevorit) 4 ran
PORSA DUIDE

BOARDROOM SHAFFLE, where of a NH Flat race and four over hundes, is tended to
lease his ubesten record on his chasing debut, While this may his on the short side, the
easing ground will help and he showed class when winning at Chepstow in February.
Chief's Song best Live Kerba at Kerrgson first time out and was conording 6th when
numing Mandys Mantino to a neck at Chebsniners. The flatners him a little as the winner
was Iding, but it was still a good performance.

Selection: SOARDROOM SHAFFLE

Afrimum weight: 10st. True handsop weight: Petitiogh 9st 7th. BETTING: 9-4 Countemt, 100-30 Nation Of Our Februs, 4-1 Halle Danning, 9-2 haltuncon Padles, 12 2 Cition Set, 13-1 Petitingh 1985: Olympian 9-10 7 M A Pizgerald 14-1 jl Neville) 4 pm

# .... ti ha bety form mile take has out nec ly c jum GOI to So To Sa Turn land O Co PAR O Liley 6 . O I 4-28 O F. BLL! 1.05 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) E15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,406 BBC1 2013 BRANDLEBERRY (22) (ID) (Humpers Recing) Mrs S Smith 8 11 10 ... Purple, yellow cross belts, happed abeves, yellow cap /1F-1F STORM RUM (7) (Nin Penny Matrice) P Natricel 7 11 4 ... / Pull, purple hoops, deneral green abeves, while cap 0-3U21 STAMMORE (25) (Uplands Boodstack) C Books 5 11 3 .... All the drama in Tulymumy Tort's novice chase at Chalterham last Saturday concerned the witner, Shekala, and STORIM RUN, who was still in with a chance when falling at the second last. His jumping had been good until he pecked three out and he was all contesting the lead with Shekala when both horses suffered independent falls at the next. Storm Run would have gone very close. The trip then was an extended two and a haif miles, but Storm Run was a Flat-race winner before joining Paul Nicholas and probably retains sufficient pace for this distance. He was having his first run since February (knee injury) when winning a novices' handicap (2m 3h at hereford last month and jumped well under its 13b. He is just preferred to Stanwore, who has the scope to make a chaser and has several winning relatives, including the jumper Marching Marques. Stanmore was also tacking the extended 20 furtangs at Chellantiam when lending a novices' handicap there 25 days ago and was driver out to best Felloo a short head. He was flattered by the holf-length margin when second to Green Green Desort at Burdon (2m) the time before, but has more improvement in him. Brantibleberry is an experienced and honest gelding, but he has already run ten bries this season and it is not unreasonable to expect that one or two of these less exposed rivels will have his measure at the weights. Kney Me in Mind, tailed off in a hot contest at Chepstow last time, had previously won an its betset chasing debut at Esser – needing the intervention of the stewards after finishing second to Cawarra Boy. A bit disappointing last term, Kney Me in Mind is useful to Wise King in a novices' handicap hurdle at Newbury it days ago and looks to have a bit more potential than Holders Hill, who took a novices' handicap chase at Heddam 15 days ago. FORM GUIDE CA 1.00 Tabriz Shining Edge: Balleswhidden Going: Good (Good

(CLASS F) £3,000 filles & mares 2m 3t

(CLASS F) £3,000 fillies & mares 2m 3f
08-44P ANRA'S GEN (15) Mrs S Buctume 4 10 £ Callaghan (2) V
0 CAROL AGAIN (F154) N Bycroft 5 11 0 B Gratian (5)
000 CEELYC COMMA (10) W Read 6 11 0 T Read
07-40 CEELYC COMMA (10) W Read 6 11 0 Story
50-30 DELIGHTFOOL (10) R Noon 6 11 0 B Story
50-30 DELIGHTFOOL (10) R Noon 6 11 0 C MicCorreack (7)
60 GLEAN STAR (203) C Feathwast 4 11 0 D Bendley
NAPPY GALE N Nason 4 11 0 D D Bendley
NAPPY GALE N Nason 4 11 0 D D Bendley
10-2-2 JESSICA ONE (14) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 0 P Arbor
10-2-2 JESSICA ONE (14) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 0 P Arbor
10-2-2 JESSICA ONE (14) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 0 S Taylor (5)
10 MRS M STAR (203) C Feathwast 4 11 0 S Taylor (15)
11 MICCORP (14) W STAR (15) T 0 S Taylor (15)
12 MRS M STAR (15) T 0 S Taylor (15)
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— 15 declared
— 15 declared
— 15 declared

EETTING: 4-6 Juneton Oon, 7-2 Tabriz, 6-1 Happy Galo, 10-1 Forever 12-1 Native Song, 16-1 Anthris Gen., 25-1 Gibson Sinz, 33-1 Checklify R 50-1 others

1.30 BROMPTON CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 3YO 2m

1 0130 DESENGTON TIMES (15, ID) W Matiscom 11 8.

DR WOODSTOCK (F75) W Screy 11 0... It MeConstack (7)

DR WOODSTOCK (F75) W Screy 11 0... It MeConstack (7)

EN WELSKIP (USA) (F222) J Barry 11 0... D Partier

CARRO DAIL (F22) D Barry 11 01... D Benley

ON SPECULATIVE (7) W Screy 10 11... IN Molonny B

ON SPECULATIVE (7) W Screy 10 11... IN Molonny B

ON THE MARKET (25) J Notice 10 9... D. J Motisch

PREEDOM OF THOY (F85) Mark Misseley 10 5... D. Storey

10 APS LA PERDOMA (42) Miss M Misseley 10 5... D. Storey

11 APS LA PERDOMA (42) Miss M Misseley 10 5... D. Storey

11 declared 
BETTING: 15-8 Mon Performes, 9-2 Porture Husbur, 6-1 Preedom Of Troy,
8-1 Willekin, 10-1 Dr Woodstick, 12-1 Hever Golf Charmer, Dissington
Times, 14-1 Specialitim, 16-1 La Pardoma, Calm Dira, 20-1 Titled Misseled

| ***************************************  | 10/101  |
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|  | ***************************************   |
|  | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·   |
| ASCOT  | ger Baby. That was a fairly moderate first effort from Desdra Dove in his first run for Robert<br>Alnet, the doubted if the gray will have come on that much in 12 days and Aardwolf could<br>get Couldry in treated the office of  |
| HYPERION  2.45 Zaralasika  2.30 Or Royal  2.0 AARDWOLF (nap)  3.05 Boardroom Shuffle  3.40 Name Of Our Father  DING: Chase course – Good (Good to Soft in places): Hurdle course – Soft.  Fight-hand course with festing up/fill finish.  Course is near juricition of A229 and A330. Access from M3 (Junic 3) and M4 (Junic 8). He- opter-handing facility at course (Heathrow 15th). Rail station (service from London, Water- opter-handing facility at course (Heathrow 15th). Rail station (service from London, Water- opter-handing facility at course, 14 Pack (15th 15th 15th 15th 15th 15th 15th 15th  | That was his second fail on the trot. Glemot travels wall in his reces only to find fittle in the closing stages. To be fair, he is usually lumbared with a big weight and, atthough out of the handloap, he'll certainly appreciate the bere minimum on his back and is he from out of it.  Selection: COLITON  1.55  FIFTY YEARS OF TIMEFORM! AURELIUS BBC1  1 MONARCH'S PURSUIT (21) (3) (Att Jean P Correst) I Easiety II 10 R December 11 MONARCH'S PURSUIT (21) (3) (Att Jean P Correst) I Easiety II 10 R December 12 MONARCH'S PURSUIT (21) (3) (Att Jean P Correst) I Easiety II 10 R December 13 I LEMITICUS (17) (3) (Att Jean P Correst) I Easiety II 10 R P McCoy Dark the and apt the (authorit, light his allower, dark the size, while cap 1 TOM TALOR (GER) (13) (3) (III A A Partnessin) II Elemitor II 7   |
| BUZZAROS BELUBLOV (P12xo) (H.H. Garcher) R. Smith 8.11.5   | Disk the, with cross of leaving questioned cap  3832 AGUNANTA (11) (First Houghton) 18 Moors 10 12. W McFarland Abroom and white adopts, distant on always  10 SELENT VALLEY (4) (Nrs S E Coope) Man L Social 10 12. S Wyons V  Pirk and dark the check, pirk seeves, pirk cap, dest bius star  BETTING: 2-1 Monarch's Parriedt, 4-1 Tors Telloc, 11-2 Papus, 6-1 Real Estate, 13-2 Securit Appeal, 10-1 Levitious, 13-1 Be De Librais, 20-1 Aquanda, Stient Valley, 33-1 others  1809: Lear Jet 3 11 6 R Durwoody 8-1 (Bob Jones) 7 ran  GORNI OF MICE   |
| 1.20 GARDNER MERCHANT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m 110yds  U1/2- COULTON (260) (C) (8F) M G 9. Outling 0 Sherwood 10 12 0   | This has been won by some decent juvaniles in the past and Monarch's Pursett, a run- ol-ths-mill First horse, tisided an early claim as one of this sesson to better youngisters when beeting Bangor winner Levillious into third at Wetherby on his debut. Levillious has since won at hisydook and reopposes on 10th better terms, but Monarch's Pursett topped thet by ending Amitgets winning run there three weeks ago and Stoned invaculate firstning 16 languise back in third shows just how good a patientheria first was. Monarch's Pursett topped thet by ending Amitgets winning run there three weeks ago and Stoned invaculate firstning 16 languise back in third shows just how good a patientheria was. Monarch's Pursett hipped patienthe ken Monarch's Pursett house in the patient of the sound of the patient in the second of the patient of the second of the patient was allowed months in second exeryons by winning at Kempton last month, a rose the decent-class Fist handcapper Real Es- table was odds-on to win that contest, only to hundle indifferently and get outpaced on the run to the second test, finishing fourth. The attifer test of stantine here will aut Fisal lastate a lot more and he should leave that run behind, then that's just whet Sound Ap- peal definition putting a stop to Mystik Day's winning aprea in impressive anyle over the course and distance three weeks ago. Being from an unfastionable yard site should be some value and won'th mind any more rain. Tax to fillion a half-brother to smort hunder Maps and kidsted off with a win from Ireal and Lettylak (second at Kempton to Sound Appeal) at Sandown. Tom Talker is open to impressive mind a log field at Newmerlest on his lettest outing and could be a decent recruit.  Salaction: SOUNG APPEAL |
| having to concede two stone all round seems a tall order, COULTON's four rivals are stiveen 3th and 10th out of the handloop and there is no reason why the classy permer should not get this trip. His first four wins as a hunder were all over two and a half-lies. Three miles, in fact, may be more to his flang, as he is prone to the odd bad misses and the slower pace will give him that fittle bit extra time to get his eye in. Coulton is made a writing reappearance no less than five times, so the fact that he heart been at since finding Absalom's Lady too speedy over two miles at Exeter a year ago len't classarily a handloop. Glemet has made the running, though Aerdwolf is the more lice-candidate on this occasion. He still had a slight lead when coming down with six to mp at Sandown, leaving Dectra Dove a distant lest of the three finishers behind Dan-  | 2.30 FRST NATIONAL BANK GOLD CUP LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) £40,000 added  2m 3f 110yds  1 1F2-1 SMRPLY DASHING (21) (30) (Steve Hammond) T Easterby 6 ft 10 R Durwoody  2 12t0- OR HODEL (FF) (25%) (8) (0 A Johnson) M Pipe 6 ft 10 A P McCay 8  Aloyd bits, ements green steven, while any, envents green spate  6 P1-103 SDXTELY HOME (11) (0) (FF) (P Bowen) P Bowen 6 ft 9 D Bridgester  Alerson, yellow attentes, while straids, microon and yellow quartered cap  |
| UNTREE   | 1.35 STANLEY LEISURE CHILDREN IN NEED H'CAP HURBLE (CLASS C) \$15,000 added 2m 110 year Penalty value \$10,406  |
| HYPERION  05 Storm Run  2.45 River Dawn  35 Good Vibes  3.15 The Carrot Man  3.50 Last Edition   | PERIORY VISUAL E. L. U., PURS  1 RT-221 STAR MARKET (13) (II) (fits P Litynes) N Treaton-Davies 7 to  |
| DING: Mildringy & Hurdia course - Good to Soft; Grand National course - Good, Good Soft in places.  Two left-hand courses. Grand National circuit is two and a quarter miles and triangular with run-in of almost 500yds. Messive space and in fences, several with a steep drop on the noting side. Middrey circuit is tim 21 miles round with conventional just fences.  Course is NE of Liverpool, im from the MS7 on the ASS, Aintelle station formed by Liverpool, Line Stj adjoins course. ADMISSION: Gueen Mother stand EN; County stand 52 CAR NRN: County ES; Tatlerselle time.  LEADING TRAINTERS: D Nicholson 14-63 (22.2%), N Twiston-Davies 9-53 (7%), K Baily 6-27 (22.2%), G Richards 6-35 (77%), C J. J. H. Johnson 5-24 (20.8%), P Hobbin 3-30 (7%), LEADING JOCKEYS; N Wildemson 10-64 (18.5%), A Dobbin 8-26 (28.6%), G Bradiey 28 (14.3%), A Johnson 3-18 (65.7%), C Lieurellyn 3-21 (14.3%), C Maude 3-27 (11.1%), IRNCERED FIRST TIME: None. | 4 PO-21 EASY LISTENING (USA) (14) (0) (Donk Kacy Ping) N Haries 5 11 6  |
| OF TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) RRC4   | CHAFYO won here on the first day of this farture last seemen, cruising through on the tri-<br>die to best King Athetsten and Sarmetien. He came into that race in good form - having  |

|    | - / QCCBTAC -  | -   |
|----|--|-----|
|    | SETTING: 11-4 Chairte, 3-1 Good Vibes, 9-2 Easy Listening, 5-1 Flying Eagle, 13-2 Star Market,<br>5-1 Goldings, 14-1 Khalidi   | t.  |
|    | 1898; Tom Bradie 8 11 0 N Williamson 7-2 (J Howard Johnson) 6 ran  | W   |
|    | FORM GUIDE   | \$  |
| 1  | CHAI-YO won here on the first day of this fature lest seemen, cruising through on the tri-<br>de to best King Athelston and Sarmetien. He came into that race in good form — having          | #   |
|    | the no besit king Authentian bind scarrenders. He carrie and was race at good king in his reverse<br>beaten the Heydock specialist Saint Chal there the time before - and he gained win num- | ь   |
|    | ber three at Chellenham in December beating Rippenour and two others. Chai-Yo was  |     |
|    | per grape at comparation in department detaining reportment and two criters come to make restend after finishing second to Albernine at Kerneton on Bosing Day, He came back to              | •   |
| •  | tern a creation grace in the imperial Cup at Sandown and would have landed in the lead   | - I |
| :  | but for letting two out. Unseating Mick Progenated at the first flight in Mr Percy's valuable  | Ľ   |
| ;  | Chettenhern hundle lest Sunday was not the ideal start, but he was caught up in the motive   | 1   |
| 1  | caused by two tallers. He deserves 8 change of luck. Good Vibes will go chasing in due   | 5   |
| :  | course, but he was a decent novice, despite a tendency to hand right, and he did noth-   | 5   |
| 1  | ing wrong in winning all-out from Alabang in a Wetherby handcap three weeks ago. The   | 4   |
| 7  | bround is slower, but he should cope. Star Market looks vulnerable on his Stratford da-  | 5   |
| 1  | but by Crabdon Boulevard two outings ago, but has since won at Warwick, while Empy   |     |
| i  | Listening is no good thing to confirm his Hersford (October) superiority over Goldingo   | 8   |
| 1  | needed recei on 11to worse terms for 11 lengths, but is the younger horse. Flying Ea-  | E   |
| :  | ale is interesting. He was flattered by his second to Asours in the Capitain Quist at Kemp-  | 19  |
| i  | on two seasons ago, but has been lightly raced since and he trotted up from Beacon   | _   |
| i  | light in a three-numer heridicap at Sandown 13 days ego. Selection: OHALYO   | E   |
|    | 2.10 CROWTHER HOMES BECHER HANDICAP BBC1   | Ľ   |
| 1  | 2.10 CHASE (CLASS B) £40,000 added 3m 3f BBC1  | 1   |
| ı  | CINAC (OPIOS D) TANION GRACE SII SI [  | 2   |
|    | (Grand National course) Penalty Value £23,673  | 3   |
| 1  | 50/32- YOUNG HUSTLER (1984) (CD) (BF) (G MacEstrent) N Twiston-Device 10 11 10 C Maude   | 4   |
|    | Dark blus, yellow attips, yellow sleaves, clark blug armiets and star on yellow cup  | 5   |
| 2  | USKS-2 COURT MELCOTY (8) (D) (Mak Coburd P Nicholis 9 to 0   | 6   |
|    | Mauve and yellow dismonds, mauve alsoves, yellow cap   | 7   |
| 3  |  |     |
|    | Pink, purple cross belts, hooped allower, purple cop   | R   |
| 4  | 5530-4 VALLANT WATEROR (13) (P Salars) M Hammond 8 to 0 R Keranagh   | D   |
|    | Red, yellow star, hooped sleeves, check cup  | 19  |
| i, |  | _   |
|    | Dark blue, emerald green cross bells, white sheeres and cap  | -   |
| 8  |  | 1   |
|    | Yellow, black braces, emiles and spots on cap  | L   |
| 3  |  | 1   |
|    | Out blot, palov sira, not shows  | 2   |
|    |  |     |

| STANIEVI ESI DE CHI ODEN IN NEED HYAD  | - 13 declared -  |
|--|--|
| STANLEY LESURE CHILDREN IN NEED H'CAP<br>HURDLE (CLASS C) \$15,000 added 2m 110 yds BBC1<br>Penalty value \$10,406   | Afficiency, weight: 10st. True handloop weights: Coun Malody Set 11th, Sounds Strong Bel 11th, Vallers<br>Marrior Set 11th, Sournescher Set 10th, Sir Paler Lely Set 10th, Smithe Set Sto, Cornelot Knight Set Sto,<br>Delynt Boy Set 7th, Juliers Set 4th, Univer Collegue Set, Grillins Ser 7st Sto.   |
| 21 STAR MARKET (13) (1) (As P Joynes) N Triston-Davies 7 & 0   | SECTING: 7-2 Sounds Strong, 9-2 Juliana, 5-1 Yaung Hantin, 6-1 Court Metody, 15-2 Sambo, 5-1<br>Stornirackar, 10-1 Camelot Kright, Vallant Warter, 16-1 Delgne Boy, Sir Paler Laly, 100-1 others   |
| LI CHAL-YO (6) (CD) (NCc Viney) J Clid 7 ft ft   | 1998: No The Red 12 10 0 A Dobbh R-2 (Ain M Revely) 5 ran  |
| GOOD VISES (21) (D) (G E Stouler) T Estarby 6 11 7 GOOD VISES (21) (D) (G E Stouler) T Estarby 6 11 7 GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD GOOD GO  | The National fences give this race special appeal and JULTARA should go well given   |
| THE BASY LISTERING (USA) (14) (D) (Dorak Kacy Fint) N Harde 5 11 6   | the impressive nature of his brace of Accot wins lest spring. There are two obvious points<br>against him and they are both significant, his is 10to out of the hendicep proper and fel  |
| Grey and red diamonds, red sineres, red cap, grey diamond<br>IF FLYING EAGLE (13) (D) (T F Maycock) R Smyson (8 to 9   | on his return to action at Kempton lest month. To counter that, every horse in this be.<br>Young Huesler is out of the weights proper and the 12th-tence Kempton less was un   |
| Flad, white operators, white aleases, and search  GOLDINGO (18) (D) (G M Price) C M Price 10 10 6  | characteristic. Junioral lumped beautifully most of the time when whining his novice chases, the second one a handicap at Asoot, and he won in the style of a test-improving chases  |
| Mather, coyal cibe elements, coyal in the and white check cap<br>8 (CHALID) (14) (15) (7 ) Whitely) (1) Gandalio 8 (1) 5   | His hee etermine to opere. Young Nuetics who won this in 1995, will test the best of these in his bid to go one better giter finishing second to hat The Red (who was 7th wrong the hencicep) test year. He also run fifth in the previous seasons Grand National - the sining on the heals of Sir Peter Lairy, who was fourth to Rough Quest, Micky Hammond |
| 11-4 Chai-Yo, 3-1 Good Vibes, 9-2 Easy Listening, 5-1 Plying Eagle, 13-2 Star Market,<br>p., 14-1 Khaild   | has shown with Outset on the Flat and Campaign over hurdes that he can get it race<br>rusty horse fit enough to win and Sir Peter Lely should go well, along with Court Melody   |
| Pode 6 tt 0 N Williamson 7-2 (J Howard Johnson) 6 ran<br>FORM GUIDE  | whose staying-handicap form lest season included a four-length fifth to stablemets Bell<br>mort King in the Scottlish Grand National at Ayr. He has had a ploe-opener, as has Sounds   |
| won here on the first day of this fature last season, cruising through on the tri-<br>t King Athelatan and Sarmetien. He carrie into that race in good form - having<br>a Haydock specialist Saint Chal there the time before - and he gained win num-   | Strong, who was found to be wrong when pulled up at Vézveick in Mench after winning time of his five completed starts over fences. Samble stays well, but will need to jump better than he cometimes does.  Selection: JAJAR/  |
| at Chetterham in December, beeting Kippenour and two others. Chai-Yo was<br>at frishing second to Albernine at Kempton on Boding Day. He came back to<br>king race in the imperial Cup at Sandown and would have landed in the lead  | 2.45 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,630  |
| ing two out, Umasating Afick Phoparaid at the first flight in Mr Perty's volumble<br>in hurdle fast Sunday was not the ideal start, but he was caught up in the meles<br>if wo fallers. He deserves 8 change of fluck. Good Vibes will go chasing in due<br>it he was a decent novice, despite a tendency to hang hight, and he did noth-<br>in winning all-out from Alabarg in a Wetherby handicap three weeks ago. The<br>steves, but he should cope. Start Markes locks vulnerable on his Stratford de- | 1 71-1 NORSY MEMBER (14) (D) (Mars RJ Starty D) Nichtabox 8 11 S   |
| abdon Boulevard two outings ago, but has since won at Warwick, while Easy<br>is no good thing to confirm his Hereford (October) superiority over Goldingo  | = 5 declared -<br>SETTPAG: 4-6 Noticy Milner, 5-1 Europeny, 11-2 River Deen, 7-1 Sum Chempugne, 12-1 Loberthon   |
| ace) on 11 to worse some for 11 lengths, but is the younger horse. Frying Ex-<br>esting, He was flattured by his second to Abours in the Capitain Oulet at Kamp-<br>assons ago, but has been lightly raced since and he trotted up from Beacon   | Express 1998: Lucio Forte 5 10 9 C C/Dwyer 11-5 fav (K Brakey) 3 mm  |
| three-numer handcap at Sandown 13 days ago. Selection: CHAFYO  | 3.15 D) £10,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £6,746   |
| CROWTHER HOMES BECHER HANDICAP BBC1 CHASE (CLASS B) £40,000 added 3m 3f (Grand National course) Penalty Value £23,673  | 1 OPSO-P PSEK GRY (149 Sets Margaret Francis) M Hermand 10 11 10   |
| 2- YOUNG HUSTLER (984) (CD) (SF) (G Madichent N Twiston-Davies 10 ft 10 C Made<br>Dask blus, pellow strips, yellow sleeves, clark blus armiets and site on yellow cap  | 4 9295 ALY DALEY (200) (RF) (Microsi Table) P Moorey 8 11 5 Mr R P McNaby (7) 5 197-4: INCH EMPEROR (30) (TV Outer) A Certal 7 11 3 Mr M Armylage  |
| 2 COURT MELCOY (c) (b) (Alok Coburt P Nichola 9 to 0   | 6 2267-5 PLAPLACK LAD (14) Ft 8 Shouler) N Teriston-Device 5 to 12   |
| Pink, purple cross belts, hooped allowers, purple cap  VALUANT WARRIOR (13) (P Saltars) M Hammond 6 to 0   | SETTING: 3-1 With Impunity, 7-2 The Carrot Man, 4-1 Phyliock Lad, 11-2 Inch Emperor, 13-2 All<br>Delay, 6-1 Plot Cin, 20-1 Glan Minage   |
| Red, yellow star, incoped steeres, check cap<br>STOPRITTRACKER (21) (BF) (The Danis C Weedon 6 to 0  | 1998: No corresponding rates   |
| Dark blue, emissiski green proon belle, white shapes and cap<br>SIR PETER LELY (1996) Listin Doyle) M Haramond 10 10 0   | 3.50 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS   |
| Yellow, black braces, erritors and spots on cap  SAMLEE (21) (D) (White Lion Partnersha) P Hobbs 6 10 0  |  |
| Cart blus, yester stars, ned attentes  CAMELOT KORGHT (228) (Michael Gases) N Tricton-Denne 11 to 0  | 1 \$/2122 LOMBAROKC (USA) (24) (Scruepting J Old 6 til 5   |
| Smeatid green and white diaboto, white cap<br>DAKYNS BOY (217) (Alan Parler) N Twiston-Darler 12 to 0  | 6 SEND WAYY (F14) (A.) McDonald) T Caldwell 5 10 12  |
| Tellow, whate appealets, yellow alterves, black attribute, while cap  F. JURTARIA (35) (387) (Roger Barby) I Williams 8 to 0   | 5 (222 LAST EDITION \$11) (D 8 Gallop) T Stack 6 10 12   |
| Stack, black and white questioned cap P LRANUS COLLONGES (14) (Halencod Ltd) Mis L Williamson 11 10 0  | 7 COMMIN' UP (F135) (Arison Perhability) C M Hides 4 10 7  |
| Black, red and white striped steams, hooped cap  | BETTING: 64 Newcodel, 11-4 Last Edition, 7-2 Tracesbilley, 4-1 Lomberdic, 16-1 Bend Wavy, 20-1   |

| E             | 2.25 CLUGSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 2m 1f110yds  |
|---------------|--|
| my            | 1996, Termondialo 6 to 12 A Dobbin 4-1 (J N Wilson) 10 ran   |
|               | BETTING: 6-4 Newcodes, 11-4 Last Edition, 7-2 Tracestrity, 4-1 Lamberdic, 16-1 Bend Wavy, 20-1 Birs. 33-1 Commin' Up   |
| TO Y          | 7 COMMENT UP (F185) (Artisen Perhandio) C M Hides 4 10 7   |
| -12           | 8 02 TRACEARRUTY (10) (A Pealer & O Jackson) M Hammond 4 to 12   |
| P             | 4 90545 BTVA (189) (D McCard D McCard 5 10 12 V Slettery<br>5 922 LAST EDITION (51) (D 8 Gallop) T Stack 6 10 12 G Bradley   |
| γn            | 6 SERD WAVY F14) (A J McDonald T Calcived 5 to 2   |
|               | 1 3/2722 LOMBARDIC (USA) (24) (Sorusping J Cki 6 ft 3  |
| Įγ            | 3.50 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,388  |
| ley.          | 1996: No corresponding race  |
| gh            | BETTING: 3-1 With Impunity, 7-2 The Cerrot Man, 4-1 Phyleck Led, 11-2 Inch Emperox, 13-2 Aly-<br>Dalwy, 6-1 Plak Gin, 20-1 Glan Mirage   |
| IOP)          | -7 declared -  |
| 8             | 6 226P-6 PLAPLACK LAD (14) \$1 8 Strutes) N Twiston-Davies 8 to 12   |
|               | 4 SENS ALY DALEY (2005 (SF) (Microssi Tichts) P Moorey 8 11 5 Sens Sir R P Michiely (7)<br>5 SP-41 BNCH EMPEROR (30) (TV Cultur) A Certal 7 11 3 Sens Sir Microssian   |
| zće,          | 3 FIZZS WITH IMPURITY (185) 687 (5 Z March P Notate 8 11 10 Mr J Thourd (5)  |
| 1             | 1 OPED P PERK GEN (14) Sets Margaret Francis) M Hammond 10 11 10   |
| יים<br>סי     | 3.15 SEFTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £6,746   |
| COLI<br>TIP-  | 1995: Lucio Forte 5 10 5 C O'Dwyer 11-5 fav (K Bedley) 3 ran   |
| igo<br>Es-    | SETTINGS: 4-6 Noby Miner, 5-1 Etruspeny, 11-2 River Dawn, 7-1 Sum Champagne, 12-1 Loberthong<br>Express  |
| de-           | 5 5,0-63 LOTSCHEENG EXPRESS (18) (A Chapperton) D Gendulio 5 10 9 Sophile Millebrill (6) -5 declared -   |
| oth-<br>The   | 3 60-20 REVER DANN (19 (Liberus Brookstock) C Brooks 5 ti 0 G Brooksy 4 0-35 SAM CHAMERAGRE (13) II Brook 7 Sentety 5 ti 0 R Thornton (3)  |
| due<br>dub    | 2 042 ERESPRAY (17) (Nover Hammings) Mrs S Scotch 8 11 0   |
| enci<br>shin  | 1 7-1 NOSY MORE (14 D) She RJ Sheet D Northern 8 11 5  |
| HEES<br>IS NO | 2.45 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER)<br>(CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,630  |
| tori-<br>ving | three of his five completed starts over langes. Samble stays well, but will need to jump better than he completed states.  |
|               | whose staying-handicap form lest season included a four-langet sith to stablement, Bel-<br>mont forg in the Scottleri Grand National at Ayr. He has had a pipe-opener, as hes Sounds<br>Strong, who was found to be wrong when pulled up at Verwick in March after winning |

um weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Mr Fudge Sat 11lb, The Min-

Mar 96' 40; BETTING: 4-6 Know-No-No. 5-2 Mr Fudge, 11-2 in Truth, 7-1 The Min-

3.00 CLUGSTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 3m 1f

3.35 INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS "NATION-AL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,300 added 2m If 110yds

SETTRIC: 15-6 Leredo, 9-4 Seymford Phile, 7-2 Point Reyes, 11-2 Stones by, 6-1 Miseri, 14-1 Appele Bob, 25-1 Artic Meedow

The Welshpool trainer David Evans was fined

£375 at Wolverhampton yesterday for declar-

ing but failing to run Panther in two races. Evans

said: "There's nothing I can do about it - I'll

just have to accept it. I would not have run the

horse twice in the afternoon unless there had

been a much bigger gap between the two races

|    |        |              | <u> </u>   | <b>PUNTERS</b> '  | GUIDE  |
|----|--------|--------------|--|---|--|
| t  | 4      |              | JETFSLL (F25) (Thomas Balley) AL Moore 7 11 8  | PUNIERO   |  |
| 1  | 5      | 135.04       | GENERACK (BELL (21) (CII) (MCX JOSEPH P PALLER D. D.   |   | HYPERI   |
| i  | 6      | 145-1        | FINE THYRE COST PRINT WESTERN MAY VIGITATE IN !  | AINTREE   | HILLIA   |
| Ž. | 7      | 12723        | AROUND THE GALE (SIS) (D) (BF) (T J) Million) D Gendollo 6 10 7 A Maguire  | 1.05: STORM RUN, still going well when falling two out in Taily-          | 777 / T'I  |
|    |        |              | New bios, scarler sterves, quartered cap, white cross belts WILD WEST WIND (250 Acrd Vestey) Mas N Kright 7 10 5   | TOPE PACE OVER ADD 4/2 BL   | [ V _ L ]  |
| 1  |        |              | Rough the number above to the second  | Chaltenham lact time, had previ-  | his best form in the                             |
| •  | 2      |              | Denies link him retree holes strings shakes. Early blue cast   | analy profted up by II lenguis  | the season. He can wi                            |
|    | 10     | on/s-        | SCHOOLSAN DOCKE 19740 ITA AAS T SMANT J GHOTE D U 3  | Seem Movemb over 201 31 21 DELV   | ing 7lb out of the har                           |
| 1  | .ti    |              | Marie Schale no Marie Harris Shitter 5 13  | ford and remains an exciting chas-<br>ing prospect. Keep Me In Mind       | Dear usually amai                                |
| 1. | Ξ.     |              | Emerald green, write aboves, amonald green and white check CRD  —11 declared —   | may pose most problems.   | could show up well w                             |
| •  | M      | HINTE WE     | the st. Toy be deep printer Declarative Parties Parties Parties (18th Marie School 98 114).  | LUCUS.  | Thornton in the sadd                             |
| 1  | FIE    | والمثقا الفح | 2 Or Royal, Simply Destring, S-1 Metell, 15-2 Fine Thyris, S-1 Around The Gale, 16-1<br>1, 11-1 Redestry/curredl, 16-1 Wild West Wind, 20-1 Statuty Home, 33-1 others  | 1 35. GOOD VIBES stayed on  | 000  |
|    | 199    | E: Strong    | Fromise 6 10 5 K Gaule (8) 11-8 tev (G Hubberd) 6 mm   | errongly to win over 2m at Wetner-  | 1.55: Papua ran in ti<br>June, finishing last of |
|    | Sin    | oply Da      | thing with talks and action to a few for the asserted Ann. West SIMOST 85 Th-  | by on his reappearance and is   | takes to jumps it                                |
|    | ~~     | a with his   | r incas lest sesson and made a dream respectance at Wetnerby three weeks<br>impressive detect of subsequent Murphy's winner Senor El Betrutti. One of  | fancied to follow up. Chai-Yo looks<br>the main danger.                   | Monarch's Pursuit                                |
| •  |        |              | hings five wins last seench was a three-length delect of OR ROYAL (5th bet-<br>today's course and distance last December on last ground. Singly Desting  |   | proven jumping form.                             |
| 1  | -      | oterat f     |  | 2.10: SOUNDS STRONG, who ran  | wins have been on a                              |
|    | 4~~    | m her win    | > Royal probably went for home too soon and subsequently showed ament<br>ring the Aride at the Chatterham Festival, Jeffell was one of the best notices  | Streeth Royal to a neck over 3m H   | TOM TAILOR battle                                |
|    | - 3- 1 | وا المحطف    | est season and bear Celbate at the big Punchestown meeting in April. Yes-<br>n is in his fevour, though a direct line through Celbate leaves the adventage   | on his rearrogarance at Welherby,   | at Sandown two wet<br>showed his best Flat fo    |
| •  | _      | · ~ ~        | ed The rain alon hybras Annual The Gale Yan Curretters (45 145) Waters. )  | the amountaine gort and is dicteriou                                      | mud was flying.                                  |
|    |        | ter Marc a   | It Kempton in February (Greenback and Fine Tityline seaming man) was a   | to course-specialist Young Hus-   | · (1)(1)(2)                                      |
| ζ  | ing    | arpado       | uent winner Priste Box at Chepetow first time out. Selections on number 1  | tier, who has plenty of weight and<br>is not getting any younger. Justara | 2.30: Simply Deshing                             |
|    | Ta     | -            | HURST PARK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added  | may prove the biggest threat.   | novice chaser last seat                          |
|    | -13    | LLD I        | A Complete Company of the Company of |   | HOTEL CLEANER CONTRACT                           |

2.10: SOUNDS STRONG, who ran Strath Royal to a neck over 3m 1f on his reappearance at Wetherby, is a progressive sort and is preferred to course-specialist Young Hus-tler, who has plenty of weight and is not getting any younger. Jultura may prove the biggest threat.

ASCOT 20: Coulton has class and has won his seasonal debut for the past four years. But he has never been successful at further than 2m 5f and may find 3m too far on testing ground. AARDWOLF fell on his Sandown reappearance, but shows

ON'S TV TIPS

his best form in the early part of the season. He can win despite being 7lb out of the handicap. Cool Dawn, usually amateur ridden, could show up well with Andrew Thornton in the saddle.

Francis Lee som t

POLITIES WHILE MAN

and Alam Ball plan

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#F • • • • 1225 F21 ....

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T. ...

. 25

1.55: Papua ran in the Derby in June, finishing last of 13. How he takes to jumps is a guess. Monarch's Pursuit has the best proven jumping form, but both his wins have been on a fast surface. TOM TAILOR battled on dourty at Sandown two weeks ago. He showed his best Flat form when the mud was flying. 

2.30: Simply Dashing was a top novice chaser last season and repents a stable in excellent form. He is believed to be best on a sound surface, however. Jeffell arrives from Ireland with strong claims, including a creditable fourth to Danoli at Leopardstown last year. But OR ROYAL should prove too strong for these rivals today.

|   | 1987   | 88     | 89               | 90              | 91     | 92                           | 93      | 94    | 95   | 96       |
|---|--------|--------|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------------------|---------|-------|------|----------|
| Fate of the favourites:                   | 5      | 1      | 7                | 3_              | 6      | 8                            | A       | 8     | _1_  | _1       |
| Winner's place in bettir                  | o: 2   | 1      | 0                | -3              | 2      | 8                            |         | 0     | _1_  | _1       |
| Starting-prices:                          | B-1    | 8-11   | 8-1              | 7-2             | 7-2    | 11-2                         | A       | 10-1  | 4-5  | 11-6     |
| Winning weights:                          | 110    | 113    | 115              | 115             | 113    | 712                          |         | 1130  | 12.0 | 10       |
| Whose's aut                               | 7      | 8      | 8                | 8               | 8      | 7                            | A       | 7     | _7_  | 5        |
| Profit or loss to £1 stai                 | e: Fev | ourib  | e -£             | 330 S           | econ   | Fevo                         | urite   | s +£2 | 50   | _        |
| Percentage of winners                     | placed | 1st,   | 2nd o            | r Srd           | in les | t race                       | 57%     |       |      | <u></u>  |
| Shortnet-priced winner                    | Salt   | on Lo  | rd (19           | <b>98) 8</b> -  | 13     |                              |         |       |      |          |
| Longest-priced winner:                    | Raymy  | rette  | (1984)           | 10-1            |        |                              |         |       |      | <u>.</u> |
| Top trainers: K Bailey -<br>J Gifford - S | Man (Y | Marsin | (1981)<br>(1982) | ), King<br>Deep | 200    | untain<br>extion<br>nce in 1 | ( march |       |      |          |

#### FIRST SHOW

bony Grosse

Told Forkate

Muston Symptomy 33-7 50-1 Such way, a quarter this colds, places 1, 2, 3

In the 1.30 at Aintree, Goldingo is 12-1 with Coral -- the Tote go just 9-1. In the 2.30 at Ascot, Fine Thyne is 9-1 with Coral and the Tote - Ladbrokes go 7-1 - while Wild West Wind is 25-1 with William Hill - the Tole go 16-1. In the Japan Cup, Coral offer 12-1 Caitano - Ladbrokes go just 6-1 - while Astarabad is 10-1 with Ladbrokes - Coral go 7-1.

Ascot - 2.30 - Ian Davies Tokyo -- 6.20 91 81 71 91 Frazer latered 9-1 10-1 10-1 8-1 coef 11-1 12-1 13-1 12-1 intaly Home 20-1 20-1 22-1 20-1 Alld West Wind 20-1 25-1 18-1 18-1 Greenhauk 33-7 33-1 50-1 40-1 Montes Sobres 50-1 50-1 33-7 40-1 14-1 20-1

C-Cool H - Wenn Hill - Lachschool T-Toler The Tote bet on the 1.05 at Aintree: 2-1. Storm Run, 100-30 Hartequin Chorus, 5-1. Starmore, 7-1 Holders HB, 9-1. Brambleberry, Keep Me in Mind, 10-1 Whistord HB, 16-1. Mister Nove, 33-1 Tramendisto.

Aintres - 1.35

Sery Listening \$2 \$2 \$2 44

Each way a grader the ocks, phone 1, 2

-Cost N - Willem Hill L -Lacksoles, T-Total

Good Vibes

Ster Mental Flying Emple

52 52 94 52 21 94 52 52

7-1 8-1 7-1 6-1

16-1 16-1 16-1 14-1

7-1 7-1 8-1 8-1 12-1 10-1 10-1 12-1

### TOKYO – SUNDAY MORNING 6.20 JAPAN CUP (Group 1) £1,521,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £882,096 BETTING: 9-4 Placedekt, 3-1 Air Groove, 6-1 Babble Gure Fellow, 7-1 Occar Schledier, 16-1 Cal-lano, 12-1 Astarabed, 14-1 Mone, 20-1 others 1696: Singapiol 4 6 13 L Dottori 2-1 (M Stouts) drawn (14) 15 ran

#### RACING RESULTS

ASCOT

1.00: 1. SUPREME CHARM (W Walsh)
9-4 fav; 2. Macmorria 4-1; 3. Maytin Magic 12-1.10 ran. Ni, 14. (K Balley, Upper Lambount). Tota: 63.10; 5160, 5170, 9250. OF:
8460, CSF: £857. Trio: \$2080.
1.36: 1. SYMBOL OF SUCCESS (M S
Punch) 4-12. Aller Magner 54.8 fav; 3. Sortion

2460, CSF: 2857. Tric: E2080

1.36: 1. SYMBOL OF SUCCESS (Mr S Durach) 4-1; 2. Aller Moor 15-8 faz: 3. Spring Double 9-2.5 ram. M. dist. (D Williams, Newbury). Toke: 25.20; 22.20; 21.40. DF: 24.90. CSF: 210.24.

2.10: 1. BRACKENHEATH (N Williams on 0-11 fav. 8 ram. 8, dist. (D Grissel, Roberts-bridge). Toke: 28.60; 21.20. 21.20. DF: 27.30. CSF: 25.593.

2.40: 1. PRIDWELL (A P McCoy) 6-5 fax; 2. Acts: U Briswell, A P McCoy) 6-5 fax; 2. Acts: Charaman 4-1; 3. Storm Allert 3-1. 8 ram. 6, 1. (Mas V Williams, Hereford). Toke: 22.50; 21.80. 21.90. DF: 25.20. CSF: 27.30.

3.10: 1. LEOTARD (N Williams). 3-1. 8 ram. 6, 1. (Mas V Williams, Hereford). Toke: 22.50; 21.80. 21.90. DF: 25.20. CSF: 27.30. 3.10: 1. ELA AGAPI MOU (A P McCoy) 9-4; 2. Princaful 2-1 fax; 3. Yet Agarin 9-2. 0 ram. 11/s, 8. (G L. Moore, Brighton). Toke: 23.00; 21.00. Title 164.20.

Jacobpot: 21.514.20. December 50.00. POE £13,814.20. Placepot: £880, Quadpot: £500. Place 6: £ 444, Place 5: £281

AINTREE

1.10: 1. SCOTTON GREEN (F MoGrein) 3-1 it isor, 2. Chican Ching 4-1; 3. Leep
In The Death 14-1, 7 ann. 3-1 if ison 3. Mige Simp
(eth) 4. 17: (T Easterby, Matton). Total:
1230: 1200: 2210. DF: 2560. CSF. E1177.
1.45: 1. WHIP HAND (P Carberry) 4-9
Isor, 2. Red Raja 11-8; 2. Percy Brainfavalle
12-1. 3 ran. 4, dst. (J FrizGerald, Masion).
10tal: 1170. DF: 1210. CSF. 5201.
2.20: 1. FENNYSHIDGE (M A Fizzgerald)
7-1; 2. Monyman 6-1; 3. Bermapeera Boy
9-2. g ran. 7-2 fav Highbeath (Sth), 8, shr-hd.
(I Fenguson, Ballymera, Co Authon). Total:
12-40; 2350. E130. E160. DF: 2330. CSF.
12-40; 2350. E130. E160. DF: 2330. CSF.
12-40; 2350. E130. E160. DF: 24850.
2.50: 1. SKLLY MONEY (R Garritty)
10-11 isor, 2. Rothard 8-1; 3. Storam 9-2. 6
ran. 4, 8. (T Easterby, Matton). Rotal: 2150.
12-40, E190. DF: SBBO, CSF: 1755.
3.20: 7. SCLLY MONEY (R Carberry)
11-5 isor, 2. Dandle imp 5-1. 3 ran. Dist.
(G Richards, Greystold). Rate: 1230. E170.
CSF: 1150. Nii: Into The Swing.
3.50: 1. JUSTIN MAC (P Carberry)
11-4 isor, 2. Situander A Azzes 3-1; 2. Buckaloon
33-1 is ran. 7, 2 (I FitzGerald, Majlon). Total:
12-20: 12-10. E130. E770. DF: 5-680. CSF12-20: 12-10. E130. E770. DF: 5-680. CSF12-20: 12-10. E130. E770. DF: 5-680. CSF12-20: 12-20: 12-20. E750. CSF12-20: 12-20: 12-20. E750. DF: 12-20.
12-20: 12-20: 12-20. E750. PF: 12-20.
12-20: 12-20. E750. PF: 12-20.
12-20: 12-20. E750.
12-20: 12-20. E75

WOLVERHAMPTON

12.80: 1. THE HAPPY FOX (I. Newton)

10-11 far; 2. See-Deer 5-2; 3. Bold Arietocrat 12-1 12 ran. Hd. 2. (8 McMalon).

Tota: £190; £10, £180, £301, DF; £322, CSF;
£2.86, Tho: £800, NF: Salty Behlandou.

1.20: 1. NO GROUSING (I. Charnotó)
4-5 far; 2. Mutassaversar 8-1; 3. Violette
Sabo 20-1 9 ran. Hd. 8. (F Hastern). Tota:
1800; £10, £280, £240, DF; £30, CSF; £778.

Thic: £2610.

1.55: 1. ELITE HOPE (Dean McKecown)
8-1; 2. U-Ho-Harry 18-1; 2. River Enaign
12-1 12 ran. 4-1 fav. Ulta Beet. 17s. hd. (N.
Tirider). Tota: £1080; £210, £430, £280, DF; £10150, CSF; £11751, Tho: £35780, NF: Muricipal GRI.

nicipal Girl. 2.30: 1. PAS DE MEMOTRES (O Biggs)

niopal Ght.

2.30: 1. PAS DE MEMONRES (O Biggs)
Evens fav; 2. Critical Air 3-1; 3. Summer
Deel Vo-1. 12 rm. 4, 174. (M Templans). Take:
£160; £140; £140; £290. DF; £260. CSF; £463.
Tricest: £25.52. Tric: £1650.
3.00: 1. CAUDILLO (J Cuiro): 3-1; 2.
Healthyande Lady 18-1; 3. Be Warmed 7-1.
11 ren. 3-1 fav Mybotye (6th). 14, nt. (Mrs.
P Duffield). Tota: £3220; £360; £360. £300, £160.
OF; £78.60. CSF; £728.53. Tricest: £380.02.
Tric: £252.50. NR; Pember.
3.20: 1. OK BABE (D Biggs) 4-1; 2. Ply?a
AddRion 7-1; 3. Treploy Ght 16-1.2-1 ber
The Robe (6th). 13 rm., 3, 2. (J Avehund).
Tota: £350; £130, £330; £500. DF; £220.
CSF; £3772. Tric: £255.37
4.00: 1. MR FORTYWENCS (Miss Diana.
Jone) 5-1; 2. Lucky Begonda 12-1; 3. Monbecristo 4-6 fav. 12 rm., 8, nd. (J L Eyre).
Tota: £360; £140; £330; £140. DF; £3260.
CSF; £360; £140; £330; £140. DF; £3260.
CSF; £362; Tricest: £55.89. Tric: £870.
A.30: 1. TRICARN HERO (A Chirara) 4-1;
2. Concest Arail 3-1 fay; 2. Shootshire 6-1.
11 ram. 8, 114, (Mrs. M Reveley). Rota: £840;
£340; £120, £150. DF; £2320. CSF; £335.
Tricest: £3587 Tric: £3020, NR; Hype Superior.
Phocoport: £364.50. Ouedpot: £165.00.
Piace 6: £32160, Piace 5: £28808.

Placapot: £354.30, Quadpot: £165.1 Placa 6: £321.60, Placa 5: £288.08. 971 981

THE INDÉPENDENT RACING SERVICES  $0891\ 261\ +$ LIVE COMMENTABLES RESULTS AINTREE 972 982 CATTERICK 973 983 MARKET RASEN 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970 Calls cost 18p per admits. LLS. ptc. Sc

| TTERICK | 2.05 NORTHERN ECHO 'RACING NORTH'<br>NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 |
|---------|--|
|         |  |

| HYPERION 1.30 Dissington Times 2.05 a 2.35 Bardaros 3.10 Tapatch 3.45 en   | 6 4 5 | added Zm<br>253 RRWP SUBLITE (11) (2) Mr<br>562 SHWENG EDGE (14) (10) (87<br>693 SUVER WINK (14) (20) MR<br>15F SWOLENSK (16) (10) (87) J<br>153 TOM BROOKE (28) (0) J K J | ) T Easterby 5 11 3 B Store<br>M Reveloy 5 17 3 P Nine<br>Berry 5 13 3 D Parks<br>Innson 7 11 3 P Carbon |
|--|-------|--|--|
| ood to Firm in places).<br>Ne undusting and sharp. Not suitable for the long-<br>In 240yds.<br>Heat of fown on A6136. Derlington rall station 14<br>to course. ADMISSION: Cub STI; Tattersalle CT; | 7 (   | 601 LUCKY BEA (P225) (CD) M V<br>0-00 POLITICAL MANDATE (S) R I<br>— 7 declared<br>5: 10-11 Tom Brodle, 3-1 Starling<br>; 14-1 Locky Bee, 18-1 Fryup Seb                   | Voem 4 10 O.C McCommick (<br>-<br>Edga, 4-1 Smolecalt, 5-1 &   |

ver Him., 14-1 Lucky Bes., 18-1 Fryup Satellits, 33-1 Political Man

2 PATSU GRAFFINS BAR (23) (M.S.Smith Mas P.Sy 8 10 0....

Light blue, gray and light blue hooped shares, pink cap

| miles - bus service t   | COURSE ADMISSION: Club Sti; Tettersule ST;   |     |        | I LEGRY BOO, 18-1 PHYCH SECRETAL, 33-1 PORTER MARKET  |
|-------------------------|--|-----|--------|---|
| I wanted arong \$2 room | r 16s tree into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Re-<br>minder tree.                               | To. | 25     | DARLINGTON & STOCKTON TIMES   |
| AT CADAG TRAIN          | FRS: Mrs M Floweley 12-71 (189%), Mrs & Smith  | ~   |        |   |
|                         | gen 8-37 (216%), J FitzGerald 8-39 (205%)<br>LYS: T Reed 10-72 (139%), 8 Storey 8-123 (55%), |     |        | added 3m 1f 110yds  |
| E Callaghan 7-40 (17    | 15%), Tigley 5-21 (23,6%), Pi Camperty 5-25 (20%).   | 1   | 1-1231 | ACAJOU III (FR) (12) G Richards 8 2 0 P Carbarry<br>NOSAM (51) N Mason 7 11 2 C McCormack (7) |
| FAVOURITES: 10          | TIME: Speculative (130).   | 3   | HU4-2  | GYNCRAK CYRANO (58) N Chambertain 8 107 B Storey  |
|                         |  | 4   | 3P13-1 | BARDAROS (14) Mas L Rossel 5 to 6   |
| G AA GOA                | THLAND MAJOEN HURDLE<br>SS F) £3,000 filles & mares 2m 3f                                    | 5   | 6135-6 | CASH BOX (SS) T Carr 9 10 4 N Smith OONT FORGET CURTIS (14) Mrs K Lamb 5 10 3                 |
| 1.00 (CI A              | SS F) £3.000 filles & mares 2m 3f  | •   | -30126 | Mae 5 Lamb (7)  |

5 635-6 CASH BOX (SS T Cair 9 to 4

0 3822 DON'T FORGET CURTIS (14) Mits K Lamb 5 to 3

7 13362 SAUCY NUN (15) P Hart 5 to 0 Guest (3)

-7 declared - Guest (3)

Afrikman weight: 10st. True handing weight: Saucy Nun 8st 118.

BETTING: 7-2 Acejou IR, 4 Saucy Nun, 9-2 Don't Forget Curtis, 5-1 Barderos, 11-2 Nosam, 6-1 Gynteratic Cyrano, 8-1 Caethbox

3.10 DICK BREWITT MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 2m 3f 

3.45 WOOD HOUSE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,250 added 2m

MURDLE (CLASS E) £3,250 80000 2m

4230 BALESWHEDDEN (20) R Fishey 5 11 ft. B Sorry
500-10 (INYOURDWIN (10) 60) (EF) JH Jutratin 4 m 3.8 Taylor (5)
0830 PERFERENT LIGHT (Fish JJ Ourne 10 °C. Citic Connect (7)
0850 PERFER FFINNON (17) JBarry 5 10 °C. D Pactor
4446-P BAASSII (13) J Norton 4 10 °C. E Catterina (9)
FOOZ APPEARANCE MONEY (15) (D) F Murphy 6 10 7. P Carbonty
POS- PUBLIC WAY (272) N Chamberten 7 10 1 ... L O'Ham
00F-P (N) THE OFF CHANCE (7) R McKeller 5 10 1 ... L Law (9)
00ULR MY SHERANDOAM (15) J H Jutration 8 10 0 ... M Moletiny
0FP. BALLYKOSSANGEL (F316) N Bycoth 4 10 0 ... R Supple
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Minimum weight: 10st. Thus beneficialy weights: My Shenzardhein Sut 13th, Bellykssengel St. 10b. BETTING: 5-2 Onyouroun, 4-1 My Shenandoth, 11-2 Balleswhildon, 6-1 Perpetual Light, Baesth, 13-2 Appearance Monay, 15-1 Pertira Flynnon, 33-1 others

#### MARKET RASEN

HYPERION 12.50 River Bay 1.25 Mega Tid 1.55 No Gimmicks 2.25 Know-No-No 3.00 Flat Top 3.35 Swynford Pride

Going: Hurdle course - Good to Soft, Good places in back straight.
Chees course - Soft, Good to Soft in back straight.

Right-hand, sharp, undulating choult But-in of one furforing.

Course is E of them on AROI, Market Repen state (Lincoth- Grinsby line) Im. ADMISSION: Out \$1250; Tattersells \$250 (OAPS Julius) by fine) In ADMISSION: CAD \$7250; Tatersate \$250 (CAPS Ju-ble clab members half proce): Shirt Hing \$5 (CAPS Jublee clab members half proce) CAR PARK: Free.

© LEADING TRAINFERS: May M Reveloy 20-88 (235%), M Proce 8-67 (224%), K Morgan M-15 (32%) J FixGereix (3-54 (55%), © LEADING JOCKEYS: P Haven 20-78 (772%) A \$ Smith 17-784, (2276), R Garritty 13-108 (22%), F Leatry 8-53 (51%) © PAYCHATTER: \$9-577 (\$42%), BLINKERED FIRST TEME: None.

12.50 EBF TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 mares 2m 4f

BETTING: 4-7 Febru Bay, 7-2 Aids Marsoirs, 5-2 Owers Quant, 16-1 Spring-

1.25 CLUGSTON SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,400 added 2m 3f 110yds 

1.55 CONSORT TRAVEL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASSE) \$23,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

CLASS E) 23,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

/200 BRUSH ME UP (18) P.R Webber 5 0 2... J.A. McCarthy

DC CAMERLOW (27) J. Medica 8 10 2... J.A. McCarthy

ESPS3 DAN DE MAN (13) Mes L. Schill 6 0 2... W Macaton

OUPA ERMANE STREET (10) O Brannin 9 0 2... M Brannin

O GENERAL HAVEI (3) M Sweedy 4 10 2... M Brannin

IF INTO THE SWING (25) Mrs. M Jones 8 10 2... D Byrne

DM MENOD WHO (F420) F. Krby 5 10 2... Gary Lyone

33 NO CHARGES (240) J. Rectarato 5 10 2... E Mary (3)

6-West Link R. Huste (240) M Prescribers 5 10 2... Junits

MODDY'S BUCK M Somestry 4 10 7... M H Maugiston (5)

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TING: 5-2 NO Garantick 1-14 krbs The Sarion, 7-2 Brasina Street

SETTING: 5-2 No Giramicks, 11-4 into The Swies, 7-2 Ermine Street,
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Haven, 16-1 Cenerious, 25-1 Menoo Who, Mannion, 35-1 Modely's Suck

balloted out of the handicap anyway."

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## 19/RACING

### He's fat, he's round, a new career he's found, Mick Quinn

Francis Lee sets the ball rolling while Kevin Keegan and Alan Ball play a peripheral role and Niali Quinn and David Platt attempt to get into the action. Now Mick Channon passes it on to Mick Quinn, the latest footballer to take his involvement in racing beyond the betting shop.

Mick Quinn told an owner on the telephone that the man from The Independent was with him. "Any tips?" was the query from down the line. "He says don't put black polish on brown shoes," trainer Quinn replied on my behalf. "And don't wipe your backside with broken glass because it hurts." This was going to be different than talking to Major Dick Hern or Captain Tim Forster.

Trainer Quinn still remains a posting difficult to accept. Mick Quinn may have been granted a licence by the Jockey Club, but he has yet to have any runners (that will come in the next formight) and in most minds he is still implanted as one of the great renegade football strikers of the last 15 years.

When you think of Quinn, you think thick moustache and a glinting smile, the sort of face that ought to be under a somhrero. You think bon viveur, a man who used to terrorise defences by blowing into their faces and rendering them unconscious with the alcoholic fumes from the night before. They said



Quinn: 230 goals and a large

CALL IN PROPER

Mick Quinn had a sixth sense for great accuracy in his playing days. He could find a party from any range.

The statistics hardly underpin this ungenerous cliche. Quino scored 230 goals in 507 League appearances and was a player of considerable shility who found no marker more trouhlesome than his reputation. "A lot of top clubs probably steered clear of me because I did enjoy myself while I was playing," he said. "Any manager l played under will tell you I trained as hard as anyone, but I liked to enjoy it at the same time.

"That doesn't mean I was stupid and went swinging from chandeliers with just my underpants on, but I did go out and have a drink and a good time. But I did get a name, especially as I was outspoken as well, and that went against me while I was playing."

Now Mick Quinn must convince a different theatre of sport that he is for real. The 35-year-old Liverpudlian's interest in the turf stretches back the requisite years. He was hrought up near Melwood, where the post code is Knowsley, as in the safari park, but Quinn does not go there any more. He does not retain the fondest of memories as his car broke down in the monkey enclosure and the inmates defecated on his windscreen before ripping off the wipers.

Quinn prefers to recall his early interest in racing, "Being brought up in Liverpool I always used to go and watch the Grand National through the fence at the side of the Melling Road," he said. "And I used to pick horses against my Dad's in an ITV7."

A career in football hardly militated against interests equine. "You had a lot of time on your hands," he said. "So it was a combination of going to the pub, the snooker hall, golf, in the bookies all day or going to the races." Someone had to do it.

Mick Quinn was a quality act on the football field and spread himself across many clubs. At Newcastle, he the bearer of that mystical garment, the Tyne shroud they call the years ago, when he returned from gramme. He is No 9 shirt. The player himself-most J: Greene and PAOK Salonika with it now the first. fondly remembers "the bunch of football out of his system, he picked graduate to be mongrels" at Pompey, men such as Mick Kennedy, Vince Hilaire and Noel Blake, who was so rugged that one of his managers, Howard Wilkinson, said "he even had muscles in his spit".

Also at Portsmouth was Mick Channon, who had already laid a and stayed in the lads' digs. Then I bedrock for a racing career. When



From boot room to tack room: "Mucking out and wiping a horse's arse twice a day is not too glamorous but it's a genuine passion that I've got" Photograph: David Ashdown

Channon started training, Quinn sent him a horse, Land Sun, who became his first two-year-old winner. There have been 31 others since.

Quinn became such a regular visitor to Channon's Kingsdown Stables in Lambourn that he was close to being a pest. The Scouser worked in the yard over the summer and, two up a pitchfork on an official basis. "Mick started me off from scratch as a stable lad. I was up at six every morning mucking out," he said. "After a year of crash courses I'd been a stable lad, travelled in the horse box to Hamilton for nine hours was up to being his assistant, look-

ing after horses while they were where Mattie McCormack sent out horse's arse twice a day is not too away, staying overnight, and entertaining owners."

More officially, he has been on the Jockey Club's trainer training course at Newmarket and successfully completed

three modules cence. After a

decade and a water bottle. Quinn is now enjoying porridge of straw and sludge. Mick the fresh responsibility. He is the boss at the East Manton Stables at Sparsholt, near Wantage, from mucking out and hasically wiping a rode as much as Jeremy Tree [the ro-

the Royal Ascot winner Horage.

These days he is out at 6.30am, a time when you could imagine him passing his old self on the way in from the disco and kebab van. Those

who still think of Ouinn as a BY RICHARD should have EDMONDSON drops were

bouncing off half of having his pyjamas put on for his Atlanta Braves haseball cap, his him and tucked up in bed with a hot- shoes were covered in the gallops Quinn was enjoying every moment Club asked Mick [Channon] if he of it. "Getting up in the morning,

glamorous," he said. "But it's a genuine passion that I've got and that's why I decided to give up football.

"You couldn't beat the idea of huying a yearling at the sales, educating it and then seeing it run, because a piece of you goes out on to the racecourse with the horse. That's much more exciting than scoring a

been at the goal in front of 55,000 people." None of this new career, though, "I've attempted to ride but I haven't found one hig enough yet really," Quinn said. "When they race shire

borses I'll have another go. "I remember when the Jockey could ride and he told them that he tund and now late trainer]. It's egotistical really, some of these trainers on their hig, white flashy hacks. You can't concentrate on your string if you're on a horse that's jigging around. And you certainly won't find me heing one of those flat cap and tweed trainers driving a Land Rover. I'm more comfortable in a shell snit."

Quinn's moustache has gone now, and he is an even more fleshy character than the man whom the closely. You could compile an album from the chants: "you fat hastard", "Sumo", and the hit single "he's fat, he's round, he's worth about a pound". The next time Mick Quinn hears shouting from the stands he trusts it will be to signal his first winner in a new life.

### Pipe's relentless flow can sweep aside Royal rivals

Considering the National Hunt him hest. OR ROYAL (nap season appears to have only just started, there will be an astonishing milestone next week when Martin Pipe celebrates his 100th winner of the campaign.

Successes do not dull Pipe's appetite and he now finds himself with more than twice the number of winners of his nearest rival, David Nicholson, and almost double the money. Pond House is relatively sparsely represented today, though that should not prevent a sizeable payment returning from Ascot. Or Royal, Pipe's Arkle

Chase winner, represents the Somerset yard around The

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Or Royal (Ascot 2.30) NB: Flying Eagle (Aintree 1.35)

Queen's acres in the First National Bank Gold Cup, and the grey and fellow top-weight Simply Dashing may have the prize between them. Slaves to the form book have already awarded the contest to the latter as he thrashed the Murphy's Gold Cup winner, Senor El Betrutti, by 15 lengths last time.

The main protagonists also have a form line between them as they met over course and distance a year ago. Again, this is ostensibly reason to back Simply Dashing, as he came off best. But, despite that, Tim Easterby's horse has been dribbling out

in the market all week. Or Royal, on the other hand. has come in for support following the deluge of rain and unusually bullish noises from his trainer. When he last met Simply Dashing the ground was not ideal and he was not ridden from behind, the method that serves

2.30) is now 3lb better off with Simply Dashing and, as he goes well fresh, must be the selection. Coulton too performs bet-

ter after a holiday, having won first time out for the last four years. The unkind have suggested he should have linked arms with the Scarecrow and Tin Man on the road to the Emerald City, such is his reluctance for a hattle, but Oliver Sherwood will not tolerate such nonsense about Coulton (1.20), who can keep up the sequence today as his four rivals are out of the handicap.

Papua, a one-time Derty hope, pays for failure to justify his potential by being asked to heave his tackle over the splinters of eight flights of a three-year-old hurdle. Sound Appeal (1.55), who surprised better fancied rivals over course and distance, is preferred.

Away from the cameras at Ascot there are other captivating runners, notably Boardroom Shuffle, who makes his chasing debut in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase. The opening novices' hurdle contains course winners from a different sphere in Fujiyama Crest, Dettori's seventh on the seven day, and Zaralaska, the vehicle for a Luca Cumani cheeky trick at York before bouncing back after a month's ban to win the Bessborough at the Royal meeting.

At Aintree, there are opportunities for Storm Run 1.05) and Flying Eagle (next best 1.35), a very easy winner at Sandown last time. In the Becher Chase over those great walls of spruce, Sound Strong (2.10) is preferred to Young Hustler, who is finding it difficult to justify his name these days.

- Richard Edmondson



WOOD THE A-Z

OF BETTING

is for . . .

Jackpot: Tote bet which requires punters to find the first six winners at a meeting, a formidable task only slightly eased by the tactic of nominating two or more borses in any leg. The meaning that the minimum

success - leaves you with 64 winner. Even then, the dividend depends on how many other people got it right too. and could be nothing like the life-changing return that such an achievement merits. The excention is when the pool has gone unclaimed for days, and a hefty sum has heen rolled over, but essentially the Jackpot is no different from other small-stake, high-potential bets like accumulators or even the Lottery - rank bad value.

Japan: Seen by some as a model for racing administration which Britain would do well to emulate; the "some" in question generally being those who would stand to become even richer as a result. In Japan, you can bet only with the Tote, and all the profits stay in the sport, problem with this approach is prize for a Flat race is a lip-jockeys to stop her horses also-ran in Gladiateur's Derby.

that just two choices in each smacking £25,000, and their race - hardly a guarantee of stud farms can afford to hoover up the best stallion prospects separate bets, but unlike the from around the world. Best of Placepot, only one can be a all for those lucky enough to own a Japanese raceborse (they can actually expect to make a profit from their hobby), it is the punters who pick up the whole tah, for the simple reason that they have no choice but to do so. Quite why the relatively poor should subsidise the pastimes of the extremely rich, or why the introduction of such a system in Britain would be in any way progressive, is anyone's guess.

Job: If the tipsters' adverts which infest the racing Teletext pages on Channel 4 and Sky are to believed, jobs - ic. betting coups - are plotted at the rate of at least a dozen each day. This in turn implies that British racing is so hopelessly riddled with cheating that even The Queen is probably slipping thick wads of notes to her

truth, the ads in question are aimed solely at the gullible and the desperate, and could be ignored by any sensible punter. were it not for the number that are shoved at you as you try to find even the smallest snippet of news. Thankfully, as thousands have no doubt discovered, the BBC's pages do not suffer from the same disease.

Jockey Club: Formed shortly before the rest of the dinosaurs died out, and until just five years ago, the last remaining defender of Jurassic values. Following the transfer of power in racing to the British Horseracing Board in 1993, archaeologists are still sifting through the layers of sediment at the Club's beadquarters. Notable discoveries unearthed include one former Senior Steward whose last memory is of nipping in off the street to shelter from the Zeppelins, and another still clutching an ante-post slip for an

Redeemyourself: Lightly raced

and has obviously had training

problems. I will be very sur-

prised if he makes the frame.

Monks Scham: Geoff Hub-

bard loves having runners in

big races and wins a few, too.

Conclusion: Fine Thyne and

Frazer Island can give a good

Not this time, though.

when they are not "wanted". In These days, of course, Britain's only problem being that compunters can rest easy in the knowledge that the "jobs for the aristos" culture is no more, and the sport is in the hands of young, modern, forward-thinking administrators. Like, er, Lord Wakeham.

> Jockeys: Can be divided neatly into two categories: brave, skilful and professional, or short, thick and illegitimate, depending on the success of your latest bet. Neither is exclusive. and some riders will flit gaily from one to the other and back again several times in the course of an afterooon. There is always more hile flying around for a losing jockey then there is praise for a winning one, since punters assume that a successful bet is down to exceptional prescience on their part ("it stood out a mile, steering Job"), but instinctively shift the blame when their judgement turns out to be flawed. Good jockeys do make a huge difference though, the scribed as The Miserable.

paring riders is as subjective as weighing up their mounts. The most detached analysis is probably that carried out each year by John Whitley (Racing Research, 01484 710 979), which is based on computerised comparisons of how horses perform when ridden by different jockeys. Kieren Fallon's regular appearance near the top of Whitley's end-of-year Flat report was apparently a significant factor in his appointment as stable jockey to Lynda Ramsden, from where he swiftly graduated to Henry Cecil and the championship. His latest study of jump jockeys, more to the point, indicates that Barry Fenton is a man to look out for this winter.

Jolly, The: Slang expression for the favourite, which on average proves accurate in barely one race in three. The remaining 66 per cent of market leaders would be better de-

### Simply the best bet for First National

Simply Dashing: Beat subse- The former National Hunt jockey Steve El Betrutti, by 15 lengths on his reappearance. Although he carries joint-top weight he has an outstanding chance.

Or Royal: His connections him to win the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham just 48 hours after taking the Arkle. Martin Pipe can be relied upon to have the horse fit but he was three lengths behind Simply Dashing at Ascot last season.

Stately Home: Winner of 10 races last season, he is only small but has taken to fences like a seasoned handicapper.

quent Murphy's winner, Senor Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of today's First National Bank Gold Cup Chase.

and genuine and loves to bowl were a little greedy to expect along in front. There is a question mark over his filmess.

Greenback: Ran in a handicap hurdle at Ascot last time but I am not convinced that a right-hand track suits him as he has a tendency to jump left.

Fine Thyne: Guaranteed to be 100 per cent after a winning seasonal debut at Stratford, beating Monks Soham by Should give a good account but eight lengths. Could fight it on recent form has it all to do. out for one of the places.

Jeffelt: The Irish raider is hig Around The Gale: The softer the ground the better, but his only winning form last year was at Bangor and this is Pre-

miership stuff. Wild West Wind: Fourth in the Catheart at the Cheltenham Festival, but reservations about his fitness as this is sure

to be run at a cracking pace. Frazer Island: Made a winning reappearance at Chepstow but cannot afford the

account of themselves off decent handicap marks, but I expect class to tell. SIMPLY DASHING and Or Royal have t between them, but Tim Easterby's raider from the North can again put the Pipe runner in his place, even same mistake that he made at though his beating of Senor El

the second last in that event. Betrutti may be flattering.

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## 20/PHOTO-SHOOT



# Boxing dresses up for knock-out night

Amateur boxing can seem to provide a healthier version of a sport whose professional face is too often tarnished by greed and cynical match-making. At the Hilton Hotel, Loodon, on Monday this week England's team took on the United States and convincingly defeated them 5-2.

The occasion was a chance for devotees of the sport to eojoy high-class bouts in an atmosphere of some refinement. Outside the ring, formal dinner jackets were the order of the night; inside it, the boxers

shook hands with their oppooeots before raising their fists. The highlight was the victoty of the England light-flyweight

ry of the England light-flyweight Ian Napa over America's Karoz Norman, which was achieved despite a two-point deduction for careless use of the head. Zimbabwe-born Napa, aged 19, boxes out of the Crown and Manor Club in Islington and a bright future is predicted for him.

The watching Charlie Magri, who boxed at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, said: "There's a lot more to come out of Ian. I've seen so much of him that I think he's

going to go all the way. This wasn't his best night, yet he still beat the American No 1 comfortably."

Englaod's success was their first over the States since 1982 and should give them great eocuragement as they prepare for next year's Europeao Championships and Commonwealth Games.

Copies of these photographs – and any others by the Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam – can he ordered by telephoniog 0171-293-2534.



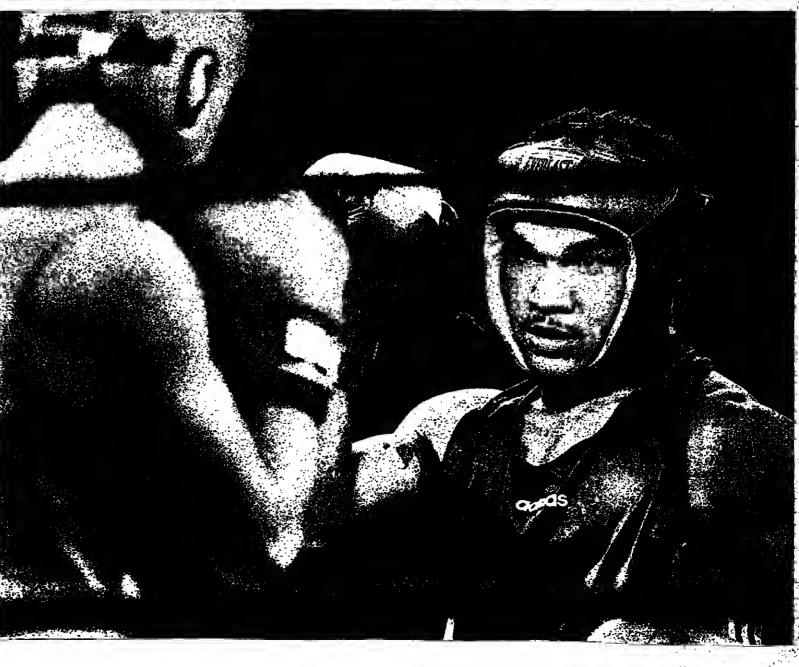




Food for thoughts Ringside africandos (trp) assess the action at the Hilton Hotel in London during Monday's international; (right) the opening ceremony, during which the teams line up on opposite sides of the ring and each boxer shakes hands with his opponent; (bottom right) Britain's featherweight Stephen Bell (left) waits to attack in his points victory over Reynaldo Ferrer; (bottom left) a formal evening brought out the sport's connoisseurs including (top) the football agent, Eric Hall, and (below left) the former British heavyweight champion, Gary Mason. Meanwhile (below right) the former world middleweight champion, Alan Minter, enjoyed the atmosphere with (right) Charlie Magri, the former world flyweight champion.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ASHDOWN





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interfollowers of motor's elder brother wards, the chinics are indicately cerebral wards, but three-ball and games, as from the course, are failing thereby to win once the many converts to be many converts.

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### Horse manure, peanuts, frying onions and flying Dutchmen – another night at Highbury



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ON AN ENGLISH FOOTBALL MATCH

Suddenly the Tube train was porters' club was offering spicy out of the tunnel and station signs saying "Arsenal" were gliding past the windows.

"Who bave they got tonight?" a passenger enquired of a father and son in red and white colours. "Coventry in the Coca-Cola," Dad said. "Nothing spectacular."

The long incline to the entrance became dense with supporters - surely they hadn't all been on that train? Must have been... walking briskly

towards their common goal. Outside, the night air was one part cigarette to two parts form of words to deal with as frying onion. Perbaps by way of concession to changing modern tastes - this, after all, was Highbury - the food bar outside the little lair that Arse. Your latest Up The serves as the Arsenal sup- Arse."

heanburgers alongside its more traditional material. But the onions remained strictly non-PC.

And people were shouting. All over the place. Either side of Gillespie Road, fanzine sellers attempt-

ed to divert the course of those

the sky. "One nil down, two-one up" shouted the man on the right. "November issue."

The chirpy lady on the other side bad a less comfortable she plied her wares through the evening, "Get your latest Up The Arse. Fifty pence worth of slagging off Spurs... Up The

companion and started to giggle. Which was fatal, really.

A youth carrying chips cut across me, bawling out to his mate on the other side of the road: "It was a chicken bone!" "Was it really?" I thought.

"Fancy that."

streaming towards the lights in Over the way from the burger bar, an old boy in a cap appeared to be having some kind of a fit. "Nuuurrr" he barked out. "Sted ee nuu-WIT."

> ing plump paper bags. Of... roasted peanuts. Of course, But I'd already passed him; and I didn't want roasted peanuts

His large hands were clasp-

By oow the street was beginning to evideoce the un-

Every now and again she mistakable sign of police aclooked at her young female tivity - archipelagos of horse sort of thing myself, hut I manure which caused a large amount of sidestepping and a small amount of cursing.

The floodlit glow was brighter and larger now above the roofs of the terraced houses which have gridlocked the Arsenal stadium into an expansion-free zone. Marbled halls? Or shopping malls? Let the club directors agonise

The attentions of a group of men had been distracted by a smaller floodlight in one of the froot gardens illuminating a row of binders ranged along a brick wall.

about that choice..

They stood beside each other without speaking, lost in their own private worlds amid the plain wrappers.

couldn't resist checking what all the interest was about.

It was as I thought. A mixture of standard fare - Arsenal v Chelsea, 1970-71 - and the more unusual: Chartton Athletic v Arsenal, Les Gore Tes-

Not only were there programmes for all tastes. T-shirts of varying degrees of rudeness were also being energetically esponsed by a succession of vendors.

Alongside the conveccionassertions - "Marc Overmars - Flying Dutchman," "Dennis Bergkamp - Living Legend" - there was a little number for the angrier Arsenal fan involving Beavis and

Butthead in red and white kit,

Not that I usually did that proclaiming "Intenham Kiss My Ass." The supine figure of a white cockerel was pictured doing as he was bid.

Near the corner with Avenell Road, somebody knocked over a sign with a bang. For a moment, conversations ceased as little surges of adreoalin pumped in a streetfull of veins.

There had been trouble at this spot earlier in the year before Arsenal's friendly with Rangers - the visiting fans hadn't taken kindly to being baited by an infiltrating north

But this was a false alarm. An accident. And the onward rogress resumed.

girlfriends keeping up and do- Nothing spectacular.

ing the conversational work. Lads taking their last swigs of lager before passing through the turnstiles. Young boys in scarfs and hats, reading their

programmes. You could hear the commentator's routine bysteria now as the big screen in the corner showed goal highlights from earlier matches. The visiting fans were chanting something indistinguishable hut aimost certainly insulting as the remorseless video show went

Quarter of an hour until Londoner wearing a Celtic kick-off, and the imperishable questioo remained, for everyone present: what was about to happen?

An English football match Boyfriends striding ahead, oo a damp autumn evening.



🥊 Doing the knowledge: Geet Sethi lines up another complex shot at the UK Billiards Championships in Preston. 'Because of the Intricacies involved, it takes much longer to master billiards than it does snooker,' he says

### Attractions of the massé men cannot entice the masses

For the followers of snoaker's elder brother, billiards, the thrills are of a distinctly cerebral variety, but three-ball mind games, as Greg Wood discovers, are failing miserably to win over those many converts to the pot black bonanza.

Geet Sethi has spent the first nine minutes of his UK Billiards Championship semi-final compiling an apparently effortless break of 80, and is rapidly closing in oo a ceotury. It is at this early stage that a dilemma presents itself: at what point in a billiards break is one expected to appland? Is it 100, like in snooker? Possibly, but then it all seems so easy. Five bundred,

then? Ten thousand? The shame of it for Sethi is that in the time it takes him to progress from 85 to three to concentrate on their play.

figures, you could hand out voting slips to the entire audience, conduct a secret ballot and get the definitive answer from the returning officer with at least a minute to spare. There are no more than 20 of them, in an arena at Prestoo Guild Hall which will pack in several hundred for the afternoon and evening sessions of the UK Snooker Championship later in the day. Some, no doubt, are fascinated by the play, but others would be dozing quietly in the local library's reading room were it not for the

free admission and comfy seats. Five minutes later the score is 147-0, which on the same table in a few hours' time would make Sethi both rich and famous. At 16.15 in the morning. the best he can hope for is the £4,000 which will be guaranteed if he reaches the final (the winoer of the second most important event on the billiards circuit will receive £7,500). As he and the other three semi-finalists try embraced the gaudier delights cannot be judged by the pot-

assorted members of the Guild Hall staff plod in, out and around, preparing for the serious attractioo of Doberty. Heodry, and 19 extra balls.

Sixty years ago, it would have been the billiards that packed in the crowds. Players like Walter Lindrum took scoring to astonishing heights, using oot the three-point shots of potting or in-off the red, but the two-point cannon. Lindrum's speciality was the oursery cannon, with the balls arranged within millimetres of each other on a cushion. With gentle nudges, be would slowly move the balls around and around the table, until his opponents either surrendered or expired from boredom. The reaction of the

audience was much the same. Eventually, the rules were changed to force players to vary their shots, but the damage had been done. By the late 1940s, fans of the green baize had

#### CANNONS AND BALLS: THE RULES OF BILLIARDS

Billiards is played with just three balls: one red, and a separate cue ball for each player. There are four basic scoring shots. Potting the red scores three points. Sending your cue ball into a pocket off the red also scores three. An in-off from your opponents cue is worth two. So, too, is a cannon - striking your cue ball against both the other balls. You also score one for potting your opponent's cue ball, but it is not returned to the table afterwards, which will end a break fairty abruptly. It is also considered to be very bad form. A pocketed red is re-spotted on the black spot, unless it has been pocketed three times without any other scoring shots intervening, in which case it goes on the blue spot. No more than 75 consecutive cannons are permitted. An in-off cue ball can be placed anywhere in the "D", but the player must then play up the table.

Watch billiards for 20 minutes, and you will begin to fancy that

you can understand why. The trick is to stick it out for another 10, which is as long as it takes to realise that billiards of snooker, casting aside its happy standards of snooker. edge. You have to play with a and you don't get a second ing," be admitted later. "As a Admission is free.

more cerebral elder brother. Instinctive, machine-gun breakbuilding is fine when you only you've got to concentrate much bave a cue ball to worry about, but billiards players face a more serious mental puzzle. "It's about the control of all three

"and it's really a game of knowl-

time to develop, and because of racked up and you start again, front of an audience, and it's sad the intricacies involved, it takes even if you're 8-0 down." much longer to master billiards than it does snooker."

here. Mark Russell, the best player in the world and all but unbeatable for the past five years, might just pass muster as a stiff breeze, but with 72 square feet of baize and just three balls. careful thought will still be essential in many situations. The best break so far this week is 466 by Roxtoo Chapman, a surprise winner against Russell in the other semi-final, which took a little over half an hour

to compile. "In snooker, no one's ever on the table for that long, so more." Chapman says. "Also, it's degree swerve which is played a timed game [matches last with the cue held almost vertitwo bours], so if somebody cally, But what, you wondered, The final of the UK Billiams makes 400, it might mean that was the point, since there were Championship takes place balls, not just one," Sethi says, you can only just win which so few people there to see it? means there's a lot of pressure

soft touch, which takes a long chauce. In snooker, the balls are performer you like to play in

Chapman sympathises with the spectators, both those who "It's hard to appreciate the game," be says, "that's why it struggles to take off.

"You can be at the top of the table, with all three balls within an inch of each other, and play a very good shot, but the balls haveo't moved anywhere and it doesn't look like anything special. But in snooker you just keep potting and then re-rack, whereas in billiards there are so many shots, like massés, which come into the game."

Sethi executed one perfect massé, the ontrageous, 180-

that there isn't one in this country. In India, there is a rich billiards tradition, and we get There are oo Whirlwinds come and those who do not crowds of four or five hundred. But what can you do about it? skill if you don't really know the The irony is that the better a

player plays, the more monot-

onous it gets to watch, and that's sad." India has bosted the World Billiards Championship for the past five years, but there was no tournament this year after its sponsor - a tobacco firm switched its money into tennis. The skill and efforts of Sethi. Chapman and the other keepers of the billiards flame deserve

Tomorrow morning, you can only bope, they will at least get an audience.

tomorrow between 11am and "It is somewhat demoralis- Ipm at the Preston Guild Hall.

### Sportsmen struggle to stay afloat in anchor role

You can see why television (with one recent God-given companies do it - it's the famous-face principle, nothing more - but turning retired sports people into presenters has never been a good idea. It's like, say, a TV sports colummist taking up opera singing. It's just possible that a new Pavarotti might be uncovered; but it's highly unlikely.

Punctury is one thing - when the in-house experts are free to be themselves and give us the benefits of their accumulated insights and wisdom (stop that densive giggling at the back). bringing to bear on proceedings the fruits of their hard-won experience.

However, anchoring a programme is another matter entirely. Just as a foothall manager stamps his own character on team and club, so the presenter dictates the mood of the programme. If they are stilted and ill at ease, the whole show will feel that way.

Essentially, an anchorman is playing a part, the part of him or herself (I bet even Des Lynam works hard nt being Des Lynam), and as Escape to Victory showed us for all time, after me, sportsmen cannot act bits and headlights, but some University presenter. sportsmen cannot act - repeat

exception, naturellement).

We've probably got Ian St John to blame. In 1969 he took part in a Sportsnight With Coleman competition to find a new commentator for the 1970 World Cup. St John and Idwal Rohling could oot be separated by the judges, and the casting vote was left to Alf Ramsey.

Unsurprisingly, give Sir Alf's celebrated Caledonian antipathy he set the Welshman Rohling to Mexico, but undeterred. Saint forced his way on to the small screen and became a master exponent of the clas-

sic "I'm-reading-from-theautocue-in-case-you-haven'tnoticed" monotone. He was, of course, hampered by being the straight man to another former footballer, thereby breaking the golden rule of showbiz: never work with kids, animals, or Jimmy Greaves.

The likes of Bob Wilson followed on, ITV making a big mistake when they poached him from the BBC and let him loose presenting programmes of his own. It was Sue Barker Her first efforts were all rab-



SPORT ON TV

body obviously got hotd of her early on and gave her some media training

The secret is simple. All you have to do is forget proper pronunciatioo and break up your sentences with lots of arbitrary stresses and pauses, rolling your voice up and down for no apparent reason like a hovercraft in rough seas.

Gary Lineker bas a stab at it, but has never quite managed to sound like anything other than someone reading a part who broke the mould, though from an am-dram audition, or an Arrao-sweatered Open

end, obviously came prepared, flaunting his pauses like an old pro (though he could have a mite claustrophobic, with thrown a few stresses in too): Carling plonked in front of a big come to Twickenham. For the first. Of our hig. Rugby internationals. Here oo ITV. Get out of my mind!" There's a new order in the game. Facing a massive challenge. And it all begins today. It's England, Against Australia."

He'd got his presenter's facial expression worked out too, though only one unfortunately-rather wry, deliberately casual and only marginally ill at ease. He's got that slightly hland, slightly detached "this isn't really me, even if it is a nice little earner as I come to the bit is Herr Flick the bespecend of my playing days" sort of look. But he's OK. There's no reason why he couldn't be the new Lineker, though you can't quite imagine him saying "twat" on They Think It's All

thinking it, but not saying it. As for the rest of ITV's coverage of the game, it was, like Carling himself, perfectly acceptable. After all, it's not as Ian St John and no, you're if they haven't done this sort of right, that isn't saying much.

Over You can imagine him

Will Carling, enlisted by thing before (as they reminded ITV to anchor their coverage of us with the World Cup "Worln England v Australia last week- in Unison" theme tune lifted from Holst's The Planets).

The studio though, looked "Good afternoon. And wel- bank of screens that brought to mind David Bowie in The Man Who Fell To Earth - "all of you! After the game they quickly

got the England coach, Clive Woodward, into the studio. I've never looked at him closely before, but his face is clearly a homage to the round in They Think It's All Over where they combine the faces of three different people. His top bit is William Hague; the bottom is - what was his name? Oh yes, John Major, while the middle tacled Gestapo officer from 'Allo, 'Allo. And while we're on the subject of passing resemblances, Bob Dwyer, one of Carling's guests, appears to be the result of a gene splice of Roy Strong and Yosser Hughes.

Appropriate really, except it was Carling who said "Gizza iob. I could do that." And I suppose he can...at least as well as

#### SPORT ON THE INTERNET

#### The sport where Britain rules the lawns

Ireland and held its first Open championship in Evesham in 1867? The answer is croquet. The following year it was held at that other nearby sporting bot spot, Moreton-in-Marsh, before ending up at Wimbledon, where it became part of the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Britain may not dominate the sporting world in the way it once did, but at croquet it is still the best. Last weekend in Bunbury, Western Australia, Robert Fulford beat his fellow Briton, Steve Mulliner, 3-1 to win his fourth World

The World Championship is a relative newcomer compared to the Open Championship and has only been held since 1989.

The official World croquet web site contains results of all the matches with the scores, which remain a complete mystery to me, and daily reports from Wendy Davidson, editor of Croquet Australia. "The audience were entertained by world-class croquet, both Fulford and Mulliner playing to a standard rarely seen in

What sport was invented in Australia," she said. In the "again Mulliner muffed, missing the roquet, and Fulford finished the game."

With most newspapers ignoring the event, the only way true croquet lovers could follow the championship was via the internet. The site contained profiles and photos of all the participants.

If you think that you do not have to be fit to play croquet, then think again. The site contains notes on how beneficial croquet is as an exercise ADDRESSES

World Croquet Championship Official Site: http://www.pertsorr.com.au/

Croquet World Online Megazine: http://www. ontheweb.com/cwo/ World Croquet Federation http://www.personal. u-net.com/~worldcrocuet/ The Croquet Associa http://users.cx.ac.uk/~ croquet/cahtmi.html Croquet World Rankings: http://users.ox.ac.uk/-croquet/worldmk.html **UK Croquet Clubs** Directory: http://www.flech.net/~ johng/ukclubs.htm

and "some stretches and rolls fourth game of the final to prepare your body for

> There is the shoulder backstretch and the finger stretch. For the latter one must "hold the mailet with both hands near the bead. Release the lower hand, stretch fingers out and re-grasp above the other hand. Repeat with alternative hands climbing up the shaft". There are also shoulder rolls and the spinal roll-up.

There is no let-up in the close season with players advised to continue the exercises to prevent any early season stiffness.

Croquet is one of the few sports where women compete as equals with men (the Open Championship has been won by three women in its history) and where age is no barrier.

So go to your attics and garden sheds, search out those mouldy half-brokeo Jacques croquet sets, straighteo those hoops, repaint those balls, repair those mallets and start knocking balls around the lawn to cootinue Britain's

world domination. - Edward Abelson

### **Punching Preacher reinvents** himself to convert the fans

of their time in boxing. But But attendances for subsequent No heavyweight boxer in history has enjoyed such an extended career at such a high level as George Foreman. Glyn Leach examines the appeal of an American legend, who returns to the ring tonight. when Briggs was born, 30 months after the former twice

champion turned pro. Tonight in Atlantic City, just weeks before his 49th hirthday. the amazing George Foreman will climb through the ropes for the 80th time as a professional fighter. There's life yet in a career that began in June 1969. How could it be otherwise for the man who, because he never lost his world titles in the ring. is the last link to John L Sullivan and the first recognised heavyweight championship fight in 1885? Unless Foreman is Foreman is a living legend. beaten, he will take the linear While currently without a title that he won against Michael Moorer in May 1994

into retirement with him. Middle-aged he may be, but Foreman remains the man to beat. Erstwhile contemporaries such as Muhammad Ali, Ken Norton and Jerry Quarry today struggle with the basics of everyday life, apparently as a result

Foreman fights on, fending off the challenges of young lions such as 25-year-old Shannon Briggs, a 6ft 4in, 161/: stone New Yorker, from the same Brownsville streets that probeing written. duced Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe. Briggs, tonight's opponent, is 29-1. Foreman was 28-0

Accepted wisdom has it that avyweights peak later than other boxers, but Foreman is taking the notion to extremes. Never before has a fighter competed for so long at such a high level. The lay preacher from Texas has become an American institution. Foreman is George Burns in boxing gloves, the oldest man ever to win the heavyweight title. In a country where an actor can become president, boxing, can it not happen?

world title, Foreman is bigger box office than both Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, and Evander Holyfield, his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation counterpart. The 15,000plus crowd drawn by Holyfield's April 1991 victory over Foreman remains an Atlantic City record.

Holyfield fights in this east coast gambling ghetto have never approached that high. To be there when Foreman fights is to be part of history. A history that is still

With 68 knock-outs from his

75 wins, Foreman would have to be given a puncher's chance against even Lewis and Holyfield. Possibly more than that against the faded and currently unlicensed Tyson, who may yet face Foreman in what, truly, would be the richest fight of all time. Even before Tyson's determined descent into rape and cannibalism, the prospect of a meeting between the Brooklyn street thug and the Punching Preacher was sending marketing men's brains into overload. Previous estimates had such a match grossing in excess of \$200m (£118.3m). In a sport like

Foreman is a physical marvel. His bald head and bulging waistline belie an incredible natural athleticism and a fitness that the canny veteran constantly seeks to undermine with references to his apparently Presley-like eating binges. But Foreman is strong in mind as well as body. His shrewd exploitation of both the current lack of heavyweight talent and the American national psyche demonstrates as much.

To acknowledge the genius of Foreman's reinventing himself when he returned after a 10-year retirement in 1987, making a seamless transformation from mean machine to amiable granded, is to doubt the innocent patriotism behind his waving of a miniature Stars and Stripes on the Olympic podium in 1968, at a time when other Afro-American gold medal winners were raising clenched, gloved fists.

"George Foreman is a selfserving phoney, surly guy who unfortunately has people snowed [fooled]," said Bob Mittleman, manager of the unbeaten heavyweight contender, Hasim Rahman. "But you never heard me say he wasn't smart."

Mittleman has right to feel. aggrieved. Rahman was Foreman's original opponent for this date, until Foreman, a cautious matchmaker, decided Briggs might be an easier option. Certainly a more marketable one.

Briggs is better known as a celebrity than a fighter, Extremely media-friendly; the who gives better than he takes. hleach-bloud dreadlocked New Yorker has dabbled in modelling, acting and rap music - to the detriment of his boxing ca-

Shannon Briggs (left) and George Foreman in promotional mode earlier this week

Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

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reer, says his former trainer, Teddy Atlas. The pair parted company following Briggs's third-round loss to Darroll Wilson in March 1996, a fight in which Briggs was exposed as one

But Briggs claims to be a happier man, more at peace with himself, now that a traumatic year, in which his mother, a

25th birthday, is over. "I learned a lot last year and I'm looking forward to this fight, he said. "I'm amazed at how old Foreman is and yet he's still a good fighter. fighting young guys and winning."

Foreman's phenomenal punching power is not what it once was. His last two opponents - Craw even if they are less potent is unlikely to end this evening.

long-term drug user, died on his ford Grimsley and Lou Savarese -lasted the distance with Foreman, but were stopped by supposedly lesser opposition in their next fights. Yet there are so former champion could fall many doubts about Briggs, par- apart at any time. But at some ticularly regarding his strength stage in this 12-rounder, Fore-Current form suggests that of chin and heart, that it is hard to imagine him being able to stand up to Foreman's punches,

and, with 17 first-round KO victims, is no mean nuncher himself. And at Foreman's age, the man is bound to connect and it. would be surprising if Briggs. does not fold. The Foreman saga-

### Pierce hits the heights against Hingis

Mary Pierce came up with one Pierce after reaching the semiof the greatest performances of her career during a nerve-racking finish to beat the world No 1 Martina Hingis in the quarter-finals of the Chase Championships in New York.

The seventh seed from France, who had been overwhelmed by Hingis in the Australian Open final, got off to a phenomenal start in Thursday's match and held on for a 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 victory over the 17year-old Swiss that brought a standing ovation.

"I gave it my all. I left everything I had on the court," said

next season, extending the

dollar jackpot in prize money.

Brussels, Oslo and Berlin, who

have until now organised their

overall enclosure of the grand

prix, will be joined by the meet-

ings in Rome, Monte Carlo

Primo Nebiolo, the president

of the International Amateur

and - probably - Paris.

The Golden Four of Zurich,

final of the season-ending tournament for the third time.

Pierce now plays compatriot Nathalie Tauziat, who kept up the steady stream of upsets by defeating Iva Majoli, the sixthseeded French Open champion. 7-6, 7-6. Tauziat, at 30 the senior member of the élite 16-player field who started the tournament, had already disposed of fourth-seed Amanda Coetzer.

The fans at Madison Square Garden gave Hingis a warm reception, but then got behind Pierce as the drama unfolded.

World athletics has enlarged its Athletic Federation, said the been released by Athletics Aus-

"premiership" meetings for Golden League jackpot would tralia because of his links with

he divided equally among ath-

plus finishing first at the grand

prix final scheduled for Moscow

Athletes breaking a world

meeting will receive a bonus of

\$50,000 (£33,000). The League

schedule is planning to run

Meanwhile, the former East

German coach Ekkart Arbeit has

on 5 September.

from 14 July.

lot, I think they appreciated the great tennis from both of us." Pierce said. She finally got the seeming-

ly unflappable Swiss teenager to lose her temper in the third set when she broke Hingis for a 6-5 lead that left her serving for the match. Hingis responded by flinging her racket across the court towards her seat, which resulted in a code violation.

However, in the next game, Pierce was a hundle of nerves. Before each serve she had to take deep breaths to calm her-"I think the crowd was aweself and went through a series

Golden Four extended with more money and meetings

some. They really helped me a of nervous twitches, earning a time violation after reaching her fighting third match point. She twice double-faulted in

the final game, but followed the on until the end of the season, second with a 99mph ace at break point, Hingis, runner-up to Steffi Graf last year, saved two match points in the final : game, while Pierce fought off : new co-owner Christian Hamilthree break points.

On her third match point, Pierce chased a ball deep into the ! Manchester and at Watford, and corner but managed a terrific : are re-building the squad to lunging backhand. Hingis' return was wide and Pierce thrust her : League season. fists over her head in victory.

of drugs in East Germany.

Australian media gained files

this week from the Federal Com-

Results, Digest, page 25

ing, Hamilton said.

lionaire owner Greg Fullerton returned to America after less than three months in English basketball. Pay-cuts followed, which led to the coach Chris Jones and player Shaun Swords walking out hefore Tuesday's 111-80 Namission for the Stasi Archives in tional Cup quarter-final defeat Berlin which confirmed Arbeit by Birmingham Bullets.

firmed yesterday that the AA had knowledge of the East Ger-: Ryan Williams, the former Eng-Arbeit was a Stasi informer land player Steve Nelson and the four years leading up to the from 1970-89, detailing in inti- Gary Smith have said they will mate details the sexual life, stay with new coach Neil McElpersonal habits, financial details duff until the end of the season. after a German parliamentary ofand politically indiscreet reficial, Werner Franke, said the formarks of athletes and officials
mer head track and field and
under his care.

NATIONAL CUP Some-make: Thames Veltey Tigers v Brimingham (t) and 17 Decemer head track and field and
under his care.

#### BASKETBALL

## Hamilton's

Worthing Bears intend battling despite the walk-out by their American trio of owner, coach

"We are expecting the rest of

The crisis began when mil-

Since then the American

## **Bears** keep

and one of their leading players.

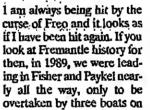
More could follow, admits ton, but Bears will fulfil their weekend fixtures at home to complete the Budweiser

the players to stay, but obviously cannot prevent them from leav-

### Sluggish response to changing

#### conditions proves very costly The skipper of Merit going east and south. Then a

Cup in the Whitbread Round the World Race comes up against a familiar jinx but refuses to use it as an excuse.



me run-in. No tavours mere. In 1993, on New Zealand Endeavour, we broke our mizzen mast and I thought we were dead. But, amazingly, we held on and the damage in terms of time lost to the opposition was less than I thought it would be.

This time we are going to have a lousy result, so I am plagued by the run through the Southern Ocean being a bad leg. And I was conscious of that before the leg even started.

In terms of performance, it is the worst Whitbread leg 1 have ever experienced. But no one could say that it has been physically tough for us. While others have been reporting wipe-outs and wave damage we haven't had any real wind. We didn't even have a lot of water over the deck until the middle of this week.

Instead we have been grumhling among ourselves that our average windspeed has been about the same as Swedish Match's average boat speed. So why has it hap-Well, basically, winners

make their own luck, so you to get south while we were still

at the start. The forecast for ridge of high pressure pushing in under South Africa, but the timing of our start from Cape Town meant we should miss it and get away before it affected us. Otherwise you have to

get from one side to the oth-

er before you get any wind.

GRANT DALTON

won't bear me complain we

have been unlucky. There has

been a series of technical mis-

What actually happened was that Swedish Match did that while the rest of us were delayed for four hours at Sea Point and that was enough for the ridge to push in. The forecast was spot on, Swedish Match was the only one to jump the bridge, and what should have happened was a

We had a course laid out that was fairly aggressive south. We wanted to be on the southern side of the fleet. Kvaerner saw what was happening, went hard south, even going hard on the wind to do it, and that was our first mistake: we just didn't realise it quickly enough.

major reassessment of where

Our next was trundling along in fourth place with Paul Cayard caught at the back in EF Language. He decided to act and went behind the fleet

pressure system came in from behind and the west, allowing: the boats to the right of us to pick it up first and also dig south while we were left waiting for it to reach us, by which time were 100 miles be-

nd, Now, having been through the bottom of our arc south of the Kergueien Islands, we have also missed the big south-westerly flow which the others were hanging into with

takes, and the first was right an extra 10 knots of wind. Our own tactical misjudgements are at the root of this series of events, but normally we wouldn't expect to be punished this hard. This is a tough race. Put a foot wrong and you are dog meat. Perhaps being dumped so hard at Sea Point just spun us out of

our heads for 12 hours. Crew morale is improving. again, though we don't like the position we are in. We are all aware that we may be lucky. enough to get away with one leg like this, but we would never get away with two. And I am angry with myself. This has been just stupidity and it's unfair on the guys, who are still grinding, still steering, still on the edge as much as anybody on any other boat. They still have to work as hard, but find they are putting the effort in .

the wrong direction. But we gave it our all onthe first leg, and we will shake ourselves up again to come right from this bad second leg. . The way the points system works, even though Kvaerner and EF Language will now have a little cushion, there will . be a bunch of us all within a handful of points of each other. With seven more legs, there is still plenty to play for.

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Golden Four into a Golden letes who win each of their

League and offering a million events in each of the meetings,

own prize structure within the record at a Golden League

| YY LLICHIY I   |
|--|
| TODAY  |
| Football   |
| 3.0 unlaye stated  |
| GM VAUDHALL CONFERENCE<br>Challenham v Gallethaud  |
| Heilitax V Hereford  |
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| Hallax v Hereford Hayee v Northwich Hadnesford v Stough Kiddeminater v Ketzering Morecambe v Rushden Southport v Statybridge Statypart v Statybridge Statypart v Farsbridge  |
| Stevenage v Fernborough  |
| FA CARLSBERG VASE Second round: Dun-   |
| derion: Rossandula v Row Law, West Auckland  |
| by North Ferriby Mustor: Peterter v Brigg; War-  |
| Brodeworth; Nantwich v Burschugh; Stockhon   |
| rowesh Victoria; Chestar-le-Street v Billinghem  |
| riers v Billingham Synthonia; Durham v Manike:   |
| Wednesdeld; Boldmare St Michaels v Amold;<br>Scalding v Mintees Backetone; Servell v Boston  |
| Town; Raypenday Victoria v Standord; Ely v<br>Wordelar Athletico; Oadby v Norwich Utit Stave-  |
| tey v Wrodsem; Bloweich v Dise; Rocester v His-<br>ton; Hucknall v Stourport Swifts; Ashford   |
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| Steveringe v Ferriborough. Weding V Working Yeowi V Working Fa CARLSBERGO VASE Second rounds Durision FB v Atherton LR; Seaharn Fled Star v Chelderion; Roseandard v Tow Leer, West Aucidand by Tow Leer, West Aucidand by Tow Leer, West Aucidand by Curson, Admiton; Amsterne Westers v Densby, North Farrby v Burstur, Feeters Brigg; Warningson v Foutton Westers; Kdeegroeb v Brodeworth; Nantwich v Bursough; Storger brown v Sheffelds: Mossely v Jamow, Thackley v Bornowsh v Steriles w Gester v Billingham Shwing Sterile v Bersough of Sterile v Berson v Bersough of Sterile v Bersough St |
| & Parketton v Folkestone krylets; Chipsteed v  |
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| Wenderers v Flackwell Heath; Bowers v Buck-<br>lerters Rest: Northepod v Woodbridge, Arheny  |
| v (Maitham Abbey: Herne Bey v Langey Sports:<br>Asses v Burnham; Ramageia v Westdatme; Wim-  |
| borne v Gosport, Elmôre v Chard: Pauson v<br>Porthieven, Chippenham v Andover, Tiverton v  |
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| Wood; Heybridge v Kingstonian; Oxford City v   |
| care y Aylesbury, Sution Utd y Basingstoke:<br>Vertice y Bramery, First Division: Abingdon   |
| Town v Wokingham; Aldershot Town v Thame;<br>Barton Rowes v Maldenhead; Billencay v Wem-   |
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| ond Divisions Eghan v Challes & Past, 1800 v<br>v Bedford Town; Windsor & Blon v Wivenhoe,   |
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Palvarham; Stowmarket v Topper; Wathon v GotINTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE-Halesowen Harrers v Chaselowir, Kinga Nor-ton v Bridginorth; Perstore v Odbury, Pushall Olympic v Pelsall Villa; Shilnal v West Midlands Polec; Straiford v Sandwoll Borough; Willenhall v Stapenhill

drug abuse and his 20 years ser-

vice as a secret police informer.

ter, Andrew Thomson, con-

proposed \$280,000 contract for

Sydney Olympics. Arbeit's ap-

pointment had been under review

throws coach during the 1980s

The Australian Sports Minis-

would not proceed with Arbeit's man drugs programme.

mer head track and field and under his care.

Arcia v Portadower, Garamon v Celerahie, Gen-trem v Ballymprat, Linfeld v Crustelant, Cen-trem v Ballymprat, Linfeld v Crustelant, Ornegh v Citromale, Flest Olivisione Ballycen v Ban-gor, Dungmenn Switts v Centrick Ringars, Lame v Dieslant, Nitrovy v Lintelaph, HARP LeaGEN NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Divisione, Derry City v St. Parick's Advice (730; Kilkenny City v Stephourne (730). Rugby Union

water (3.0).
WEISH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division:
Abersson v Landovery (2.0); Abersflery v Pontypool (2.0); Bonymater v South Wates Police
(2.0); Cross Keys v Caerphily (2.0); Measting v
Durrent (2.0); Meritry v Pursuey (2.0); Tecarry
v Newtonigs (2.0); LIWIC (Cardiff Inst) v Blackwood (2.0).

UNI-BALL TROPHY Southern Pool: Wistord Royals v Psugest Bullets Barningham (7:30): Tharnes Valley Tigets v addas Grester London Leopards (8.0).

ESL SOUTH Presiden Anchorare v Gole Court Chichester v Winchester, Eastone v Bedken-bern, Harne Bay v Malderineed, High Wycombr v Boursemouth; Old White/flams v Richmond, Purley v Fereiram, Ramgarha v Turbridge Walls

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES Pre-mier: Bath Buccs: v Robinsons; Chetanham v Mexim-supe: Mare; Gevector v Bristol Univ. Ex-ale: University v Tsunion Vale; Swarssa v Whichurch

Second Sweeter Busing (20); Sherwood v Alchdge (20). Poyston v Old Loughtonams (Ut); Sherwood v Alchdge (20). WOMEN'S MORTH First Division: Bischburn v York; Liverpool Setton v Chester, Welton v Leyland Molors; Winnington Park v Sherfield. WOMEN'S EAST SUPER LEAGUE President Author v Sevenous; Darehum v Cambridge City; Heriston Magpies v Ipawich; St Albert v Bury St Edmands.

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Hampsted & Westminster v Winchmore Hill; Horstein v Southempton, Reading v Hendon; Tulse Hill v Madenhead, Winchester v Dulvich.

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scotlish Stigles v Car

BADMINTON: Scottish Open (Glasgow). BORNG: European flyweight little: D Guoraut (holder) v A Lawis (Bury) (Manchester). SNOCKER: LIK Championship (Preston).

Football

FA CARLSBERG YASE Second round: End-sleigh v Coves Sports (2.0). HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-mer Division: Durdalk v Carl City (3:5). Rugby Union TOUR MATCH: West Hartlepool v Tongs (3.0) CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUR-Group D: Blackheath v Richmond (3.0).

Hockey

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Exide London Towers v Sheffeld Sharks (630) SUPERLEAGUE: Shoffleld Steelers v Cardiff Covins (630): Manchester Storm v Newcastie Cotras (60): Bracknell Baes v Nathrigham Pan-thans (60):

Other sports BADMINTON: Scotten Open (Glasgow), 88LLIARDS: UK Championship final (Presion), RALLYING: Brissh RAC Ray SMCCKER: (K Championship)

### Cayard overtaken in 'night of terror'

As Swedish Match dipped take. It opened before it got below 650 miles to the finish to the top, the helmsman lost bread Round the World Race, Britain's Lawrie Smith added to his world record of the previous day before by sweeping Silk Cut past Paul Cayard into fourth place.

skipper of Sweden's EF Language, admitted to being extremely tired after "another knots without even trying. night of terror" as he pushed his boat harder and harder to- he is OK. He won't ever forwards Fremantic. In a report that showed just how violent the Southern Ocean can be, he have a scenc like that, it takes said: "The grand finale in this opera was a broach with Curtis Blewitt up the mast and the the repairs. No one gets any spinnaker pole and boom exploding.

spinnaker after repairing it two hours of nothing. Two from an earlier, smaller mis- people on deck just making

of the second leg of the Whit- control and spun into the wind. Curtis was up the rig while it was shaking violently. I thought he was going to die.

"We have to blow the halyard so we could bare away. The spinnaker went in the wa-Cayard, the American ter and it was all hands on deck to get it back on board while the boat was doing 15 "We got Curtis down and

get that broach. Life on board is a horror show. When you three to four hours just to clean up the mess. Then you start on sleep and meals are forgotten.

"So what we have to do "We were resetting the right now is take a time out,

minimal headway. When the spinnaker pole is fixed and we have had some rest we will start racing again," With Cayard lunping

third-placed Toshiba - skippered by his former crewmember Paul Stanbridge - some 140 miles ahead. Smith is a formidable opponent and Silk Cut, averaging 17 knots, has the speed to :

along, Smith's next target is

attack Toshiba over the remaining 1,200 miles to westem Australia. eth Australia.

WhiteRab Round THE WORLD

RACE (second leg, 4,500 miles, Cape
Town to Frementia): Latest poelitioner
1 Swedish Match (Swe) & Krantz 642
miles to finish; 2 innovation Kesemer (Not)
K Frostad 277 miles behind; 3 Teshiba (LS)
P Standbridge 397; 4 Six Car (CS) L Smith
588; 5 EF Linquinge (Swe) P Cayard 186;
6 Chesile Racing (US) M Fischer 581; 7
Merk Cup (Monaco) G Delton 925; 5 EF
Education (Swe) C Suilou 282; 5 Shurel
Surergy (Neth) H Bouncholte 1025.

> - Stuprt Alexander Fremantie

## McRae and Makinen eager to end psychological sparring

Tommi Makinen goes into the Network Q RAC rally, which starts tomorrow, needing only sixth place to retain his world title. Colin McRae, his only rival, must win his third RAC, with Makinen out of the first six, to deprive the Finn.

Denck Alsop looks at the race, the route, the drivers and the cars in a refreshingly cavalier

Colin McRae knew exactly how he intended to relax in the little spare time he had before the World Championship decider. He would have a bit of fun on his motocross bike. "You must be joking," his boss, David Richards, exclaimed.

But he would be fine, he would do nothing stupid, the Scot protested. And besides, he had invited Tommi Makinen, his rival for the title and another motocross freak, to join him. That's not what I want to hear." Makinen's boss, Phil Short, exclaimed.

Sbort, manager of the British-based Mitsubishi team, was relieved to learn his driver could oot make the extra-curricular duel because he was attending a wedding, Richards, principal of the British-based Subaru team, was relieved to learn his driver had emerged from his recreational jaunt unscathed.

McRae was exhilarated, Makinen frustrated. "I would love to have been with Colin," the Finn said. "I'm sure we would have had a good time."

Spend just a little time in the company of the world's best raly ly drivers and you quickly realise that this is a very different eovironment from Formula One motor racing. The absence of wheel-to-

wheel combat is cited as an explanation, the lower profile another. Whatever the cause, the effect is refreshingly season to an all or nothing bealthy. And do oot be deluded; the competition is no less carnest.

That will be evident over three days of the Network Q RAC Rally, starting at Cheltenham race course tomorrow



Preparing for splashdown: Colin McRae prepares for the Network Q RAC Rally by testing his Subaru near Great Tew in Oxfordshire

morning. At stake is the world championship.

Makineo, the defending champion, requires only sixth place to retain his title and even that modest target will be unnecessary if McRae, his only challenger, fails to win.

The odds, therefore, are heavily in Makinen's favour, the objective uncomplicated for McRae. As for the pressure, it does not show on either of them. McRae is a phlegmatic character at the best and worst of times. He has no truck with false modesty, such as expressing surprise. He has won the last two rallies, forcing the finale.

because of the way the season has gooe," he said. "It's gooe up and down and I've got to believe that, having arrived at this situation. I can do it. Tommi

should win it, of course he should, but you can never tell in rallying."

McRae, champion in 1995, does tell you he believes be probably should have had a second title sewn up by now if his Impreza had oot been hindered by engine problems early in this season. "I wasn't happy and everyone says things in the beat of the moment, but that's motor sport."

McRae's self-assurance is justified. He and Makinen are generally acknowledged as the best, having assumed command from Joha Kankkunen and Carlos Sainz. McRae's imson, yet the propensity for lightning strike has been re-"I'm oot really surprised

> He said: "I have changed, even since '95. I'm more methodical. Tommi and Juha are probably the only other two like

me in terms of temperament. But you still have to go flat out and, when it comes down to it, as with any top sportsman, you have to have that bit extra in

your locker. "You tend to find on various stages a point where one driver will have more confidence than another. It's just having a good feel for it. Courage doesn't really come in to it. This is about confidence."

His confidence, as Makinen is aware, will be soaring on his bome rally, although McRae attributes the "extra lift" to the volume of support rather than familiarity with the terrain. In petuosity has given way to rea- fact, he would be more confirally had not been diverted away from the notorious northern stages, such as Kielder, to the "deep south" and its new

Cheltenham base. McRae said: "There would

be more chance of Tommi making a mistake if we were up in Kielder, and especially if there was sheet ice. I'm not saying there wouldn't be more chance of my making a mistake, but I've got nothing to lose. Tommi's got everything to lose.

The pressure is on him." It appears to have been takeo virtually for granted that McRae will complete a hat-trick of RAC victories - he won in '95 and '95 - a danger he senses and has endeavoured to counter by making diligent preparations with his navigator,

the Welshman, Nicky Grist. "Everybody thinks it is automatic I am going to win the mised his natural instincts and dent of outright success if the rally, but they seem to be forgetting not only the possible hazards, but also the strong old Makinen acknowledged, competition. There are a oumber of guys, perhaps five or six, who are capable of winning and most of the others don't have oot be able to go slower than

the championship to think about, Carlos and Juha, for ex-

"Nicky and I have been training hard, particularly cycling. I'm not keen on jogging. With these long days now, it's important to have the stamina and also the concentration. It keeps you more consistent and more alert. You make fewer mistakes."

Logic suggests that only a mistake or mechanical fault can stop Makinen from retaining his championship. He can patently afford to drive within himself, but would he be more vulnerable if he comprosettled for a minor place? "That's the question," 33-yearsomewhat tantalisingly. "I will just try to find the right feeling for it. I know people say I will

normal, but I don't think that will be too difficult. I will be going at maybe 90 to 100 per cent. Normally you have to go at 120

per cent." Makinen's record on the RAC - eighth is his best finish from seven starts - scarcely encourages optimism, but again he has an answer. "I have had the proper car

only once before, and theo some stupid luck. I have the car now and I also have bad a lot of experience in the British championship, so I know the conditions here very well." Makinen, who has endured

bizarre misfortune this seasoo be retired after hitting a cow in Corsica - is cooteot to hear McRae quoted the favourite for the rally and willingly goes with the flow.

"He is at home and should have the best chance. But we have new stages and we are not

THE CONTENDERS

TOMMI MAKINEN

Age: 33 Car: Mtsubishi World rally ches Starts: 55

Champion: 1986 1997 wins: Four Best RAC finish: Eighth (1992)

COLIN MCRAE Hetionality: British

Wins: 10

Age: 29 Car: Suberu World rally ch Starts: 49

Wins: 12 1997 wins: Four Best RAC finish: Whner, 1994 &

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE PL 1 T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi 62 2 C McRae (GB) Subaru 3 C Sainz (Sp) Ford

4 K Eriksson (Swe) Subaru 28 5 P Lietti (It) Subaru 7 R Burns (GB) Mitsubishi 8 A Schwarz (Ger) Ford

9 F Lobs (Bel) Toyota 10 G Panizzi (Fr) Peugeot MANUFACTURERS

3 Ford

going to Scotland and Kielder this time, so maybe he will oot be so comfortable. There are also a lot of other drivers who can win, including my teammate, Richard Burns,

The psychological sparring is a feature of their relationship. They trade points with as much relish out of the car as in it. But each considers the other a friend.

Makinen said: "We do have a good relationship and why not? This is not Formula One. If we want to do something together, we can do that. Rally drivers like to have fun. But we are big rivals behind the steershould be - I think."

McRae concurs: "We doo't see it as a big deal to go riding or whatever between rallies. It doesn't make the competition any less keen or winning any

### A NEW LOOK AND A NEW ROUTE

Spa town, regency architecture, home of National Hunt racing and the Gold Cup, and now the headquarters for the Network Q RAC Rally. Dickens is not alone in having rarely seen such a place that so attracted his fancy.

a place that so attracted his raincy.
The organisers of the British round of the World Rally Championship selected this elegant watering hole as their base for a new-look event. To hardy veterans of the early winter classic, it may prove a culture relationship. ture shock.

There has long been a lobby to bring the annual forest spin further south and this compact disc will resound to the accompaniment of an anticipated two million enthusiasts anticipated two milion entitusiasis over three days. The shorter routs — 1,100 miles — effectively limits the rally proper to two days in Wales after tornorrow's spectator stages.

Abandoned for now are the legendary tracts of the north, considered the uttimate challenge or

ered as the ultimate challenge or ogres, depending on your point of view. If your view is from a ditch in Kielder you might be inclined to advise them what to do with their ultimate challenge, but the purists fear the teeth have been extracted from the oki RAC beast.
Those in the "let's take the show

on the road" camp argue snow and ice and calamity are not unknown in mid-Wales. Plocks and slippery tracks and the unexpected are pretty well guaranteed anywhere, and the organisers are confident that the un-folding drama will confirm they have not gone soft and the contest has

not been devalued.

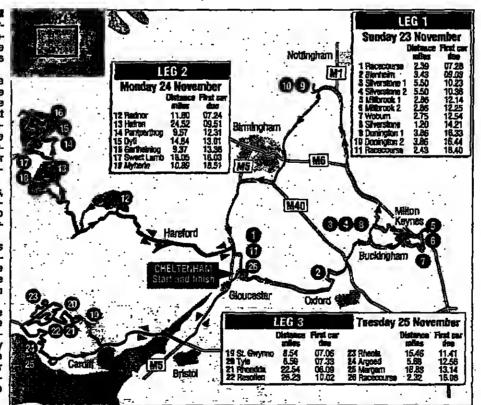
An intriguing innovation for the RAC is the presentation at Silverstone tomorrow of a "super special" stage hased on a concept ploneared at Langley Park, Australia. Cars com-pete in pairs, effectively racing side by side around the 12-mile gravel circuit. We might even witness one or two Formula One style comings-

Again it may irk the traditionalists, but Richard Burns, the British Subaru driver, is among those who welcome the shift towards customer-

friendly spectacles.

Burns said: "I think the spectators mil find it very exciting and that can-not be a bad thing, it may not be pure railying, but it is just one short stage over three days and I think you can

afford one. "My only reservation is that the track is a bit narrow and it could be very interesting if people start slid-ing. But they've shown at Langley Park what can be done and I'm sure the organisers will learn from their first year at Silverstone and, if necessary develop and improve it in the



#### THE CLAN MCRAE SKODA'S

**CHALLENGE** 

The wind of change blow-ing through the RAC Raily is about to carry away a star assured a permanent place in the annals of the event. But not before one more breath of its fresh air. The Skoda Felicia, third

last year for Stig Blomqvist, is in the Swede's hands for a farewell outing before giving way to the Octavia. Skoda have collected 25 class wins in 25 years on the RAC alone. Blomqvist is intent on maintaining the

success rate, giving the Fe-ficia a suitable send-off. He said: "It would be great to end the Felicia's career with another class victory. Last year we won not

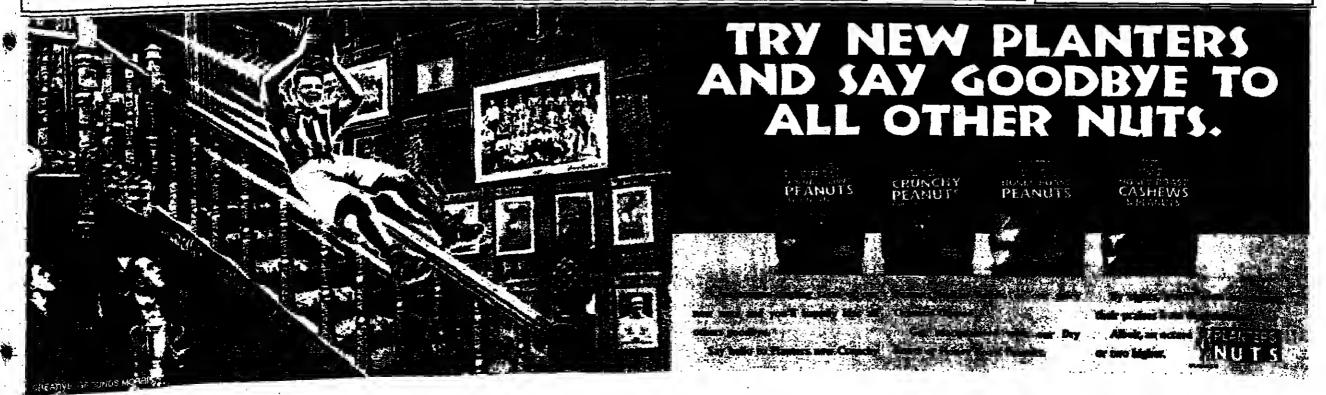
only our class but also overall Formula Two honours. That was a bit special." Showroom versions of the Czech car will be driven by RAC Raily debutants, Meissa Heijink and Anna Tait, winners of the Skodabacked LadyQuest com-petition. Tait said: "Melissa and I believe that we're up to the job. It won't just be Stig's performance we'll be celebrating at the finish."



Family business (left to right): Alister, Jimmy, mother Margaret and Colin McRae Photograph: Empics

Whatever the outcome of the RAC, the clan McRae already have a piece of history to celebrate. For the first time, all three famous Scots are competing on the same RAC. White Colin heads the cast in pursuit of outright victory and the world championship, younger brother Alister and father Jimmy Joust for honours in the two-litre class. Alister drives a Volkswagen Golf and Jimmy, five times British champion, and Hyundal. Alister, British champion two years ago, said: "I just hope dad isn't too com-petitive. I'm sure he won't be far off the pace."

Apart from Stig Blomqvist's Skoda, their competition will include Mark Higgins' Nissan, the Renaults of Robbia Head and Martin Rowe, and a quartet of Seats led



## 24/RUGBY UNION

### Today's All Blacks could be the greatest of all time

Rugby may have been born in Britain, but it was raised in the Land of the Long White Cloud. Dave Gallaher's "Originals" first showed the old country how the game should be played back in 1905 and almost a century on his successors are at it again. Chris Hewett believes we may be seeing the greatest All

Black side of them all.



All Blacks 1997 vintage: Triumphs include the Bledisloe Cup

John Hart was right, as usual, Tradition and Responsibility. As when he declared a reluctance to make comparisons across the historical sweep of generations; who, after all, could sensibly state that Ali would have beaten Marciano, that Gigli was a finer tenor than Pavarotti, Picasso a greater artist than Cezanne? The New Zealand coach found it hard enough choosing between Josh Kronfeld and Andrew Blowers as his open-side unconscionable. flanker for this afternoon's Test match with England, let alone If some All Black sides have

pitting one era of All Black domination against another. Yct the mesmoric quality of performance produced by Hart's tourists over the last fortnight demands that the question be asked. Is this the most accumplished New Zealand rugby side of them all, the brightest flowering of a centuryold sporting dynasty unrivalled in its cohesion and consistency. If the coach feels unable to offer an answer, others will do it for him. These All Blacks are certainly the pick of the post-war crop and quite possibly the best ever.

Whenever the poor, hattered cannon-fodder on the receiving end of a Silver Fern shellacking search for an explanation of New Zealand's pre-eminence among rugby nations, they quickly encounter the T-word and the R-word.

many of the current tour party have stated and restated over the last few days, the ghosts of All Blacks past inhabit every square inch of their dressing room, lurk in every corner, peer down from every nook and cranny. To lose is to sully the legacy of Gallaher, Stead, Nepia, Scott and Clarke, Not only is it unacceptable, it is

not been particularly choosy in their methods of avoiding the unthinkable, the hest have carried with them a missionary zeal. The first New Zealanders to play a Test series here, 92 years ago, introduced so many innovations and set such an array of new standards that Dave Gallaher, their charitable captain, took it upon himself to pen an instruction manual. Had Brian Lochore felt similar pity for the uneducated heathen he encountered north of the equator in 1967, he too might have turned agony aunt and offered some matronly advice.

If the 1905 and 1967 vintages left indelible imprints on the rugby psyche of Britain and Ireland, the 1997 crew seem certain to complete the holy trinity. Richard Hill, the Emerging England coach on the wrong end of a sublime 50-pointer in

Huddersfield on Tuesday night. spoke as though he had just rediscovered Tutankhamun's tomb - "There were wonderful things out there, things that were far, far beyond us" - while Gareth Jenkins, the Llanelli coach whose side finished 30 points worse off than Hill's, talked of the New Zealanders being "light years" ahead. Understandahly, Hart

leaves the superlatives to others. As joint coach of the îllfated 1991 World Cup squad yes, even New Zealand rugby teams sometimes fall short of expectations - he was forced to experience the sharp end of the lucky stick before seizing his opportunity to smash the rest the world around the head with it and as a result, he is guarded in his assessment of his squad's place in the historical pecking order. But when he sees performances of the kind delivered at Stradey Park, Lansdowne Road and the McAlpine Stadium, he feels honour-bound to put them in some sort of perspective.

"I think we may have one of the best All Black sides at the moment," he agreed earlier this week. "The thing about this squad is the irrelevance of the numbers they wear on their backs. Many of the skills the players possess go across the

board, run right through the party. They are all footballers, all fit and quick and comfortable on the ball. They all know where they are on the paddock and where they're trying to get to. They are complete rugby players playing a complete game."

So complete, indeed, that as Jack Rowell, the former England coach, pointed out on Thursday, "they are making rugby look like a non-contact sport". It was the most telling comment of all the thousands uttered by rugby folk the length. and breadth of these island in recent days, encapsulating as it did the full extent of New Zcaland's reinvention of the 15-man code.

The S1-3 savaging of Llanelli a fortnight ago should have been as dull and dispiriting as any other one-way exercise in target practice. It was nothing of the sort. It was compelling. thrilling, a feast for the sporting imagination.

So yes, Hart was right not to day the comparison game. Christian Cullen may or may not be a better full-back than was Boh Scott, Jeff Wilson may or may not be a finer wing than Bryan Williams. Who cares? All we need to know is that these All Blacks are special. Enjoy them while you can.

## PAST MASTERS: FIVE OTHER GREAT NZ TEAMS

#### Dave Gallaher's 1905 vintage

They became known as the "Originals" and the label could not have been more appropriate. The statistics of the tour were impressive enough - before. losing, controversially, by e single score to Wales in their final fixture, the tourists won all 28 of their games with a points differential of 801-22 - end with Billy Stead, Billy Wallace, Charles Seeling and Gallaher himself among the



personnel, future legends were two e penny. But the 1905ers did more than win matches and win them in style. They brought with them e whole new style of rugby, introducing the wing-forward role to British teams - Gallaher himself filled the revolutionary position - as well as the five-eighth theory of back play used by New Zealand sides to this day. Original indeed.

#### Cliff Porter's 1924 vintage

Nineteen years on, the "Originals" gave way to the "Invincibles". Unbeaten in 28 matches, the achievements of Porter's extravagantly gifted party earned it an honoured position at the very heart of New Zealand rugby lore, and there it remains. All Black aficionados down through the generations have cut their teeth on tales of George Nepia, Jock Richardson and the Brownlie brothers, one of whom, the hugely influential Cyril, managed to get himself dismissed during the Test at Twickenham. The All Blacks still beat a particularly strong England side (below) with something to spare and would surely have completed a first Grand Slam of Britain and Ireland had the Scots, still grumbling about an expenses row that had blown up during the 1905 tour, not refused them a fixture.



#### Bob Duff's 1956 vintage

If New Zealand touring sides had traditionally set sail with more strength in depth than the Spanish Armada, the 1956 home series against the Springbooks saw them in extremis. It was backs-against-the-wall time for a nation whose very credibility had been undermined by a 4-0 thumping in South Africa seven years previously and if the outcome of this rubber was too close to call, its nature was entirely predictable. It was a fight from start to finish, always teetering on the brink of open warfare and often plummeting over the edge. When the dust settled, the All Blacks were heroes once more: Kevin Skinner, Tiny White, Peter Jones, Don Clarke (pictured left), every one an instant folk hero. South Africa's 3-1 reverse brought to en end two decades of world-

#### Brian Lochore's 1967 vintage

Generally regarded by British observers as one of the two finest touring sides to visit these islands in the post-war era - the 1951 Springboks were the others - Lochore's party set radical new standards by running the bell et every opportunity (hardly an approach associated with All Black sides of the 1950s and early 1960s). Denled a shot at the Grand Slam by en outbreak of foot end mouth disease in Ireland, they drew 3-3 with East Wales on a snow-bound ground in Cardiff end won the rest of their games with varying degrees of brilliance. Their pack was truly great - Ken Gray, Colin Meads (pictured right after being sent off egeinst Scotland), Kel Tremain, Waka Nathan and Lochore himself were good enough to play in any side of any era end in Fergie McCormick, they possessed e towering competitor at



#### David Kirk's 1987 vintage

The first World Cup-winning sida and one boasting spectaculer gifts in every department. If ever an All Black team possessed an embarrassment of riches, this was it: Gallagher, Kirwen, Stanley, Fox, McDowell, Fitzpatrick, the Whetton brothers, Shelford end the staggering Michael Jones were ell on board and not surprisingly, thay riever looked remotely in danger of having to dig deep. As so often in the past, a New Zealand team sceled new heights in the back-row disciplines, with Shelford, Jones and Alan Whetton running amok. They had Iron in the soul, too; Shelford, in particular, could frighten opposition packs on his own. Kirk (pictured left with the World Cup), a scrum-haif of deep intelligence, quit the scene almost immediately but the fabric of the side remained, unbeaten, until tha and of the decade.



### Ireland promote Maggs and Erskine from the bench

Ireland have called up the Bristol wing Kevin Maggs and Sale's flanker David Erskine for the game against Canada at Lansdowne Road on 30 November.

They are the only changes to the side crushed 63-15 by New Zealand last Saturday, when the pair came on as replacements. although there are doubts about hooker and captain Keith Wood and No 8 Eric Miller,

who were injured in that game. Mages, who plays most of his club rugby in the centre, a very short space of time. He

replaces John McWeeney on the left wing, while Erskine comes in at hlind-side flanker instead of Eddie Halvey, who is relegated to the replacements. Jan Cunningham takes

Maggs' place on the bench. The Ireland team manager, Pat Whelan, said: "MeWeeney was not comfortable in the match, but that does not mean that he is now out of the reckoning.

"He has come a long way in

just needs a little more time to adjust to the higher levels of the game and he will benefit from the experience of playing for Ireland A against the Canadi-

"When it came to the choice between Halvey and Erskine, it was a close call. When Erskine came on as a replacement, he made a higger impression than Halvey, but Eddie is still very much in the frame."

ans next week.

McWeeney is one of eight full internationals in the Ireland

A team to play Canada at Ravenhill in Belfast next Wednesday evening.

The others are full-back Ciaran Clarke, wing Darragh O'Mahony, centre Jonathan Bell, fly-half Paul Burke, prop Peter Clohessy, lock Gabriel Fuleher and flanker David

The Saracens scrum-half Brad Free, an Australian who has Irish qualifications, is also

the English are about to get a taste of New Zealand beef.

For a change,

New Zealand Lamb wish both teams all the best.

dayers the order as spirst Scotland be he trend of their cord when they f Autralia at Morean morts, though . that of a winger w minemational far prigree has raised

Missing a quarter o

SHATES. 11-4-57 ERRY -

South A

## 25/SPORT

RUGBY UNION

### Burden falls on Scotland's backs

Missing a quartet of key players, the odds are against Scotland bucking the trend of their inauspicious record in pre-Christmas home record when they face Australia at Murrayfield today. As Simon Turnbull reports, though, the debut of a winger with an international family pedigree has raised hopes of an upset.

November at Murrayfield has become wing and a prayer time even for Scotland's finest. Steamrollered (51-15) by the All Black machine in 1993, brushed aside (34-10) by the Springboks in 1994, held (15-15) by

Western Samoa in 1994 and waltzed over (29-19) by the Wallabies a year ago, tradition suggests the Scots ought not to have a prayer of beating Australia this afternoon.

Rational analysis would indicate as much too, given the absence from the Scottish ranks of Doddie Weir, Tom Smith, Rob Wainwright and Rowen Shepherd. Against a pack patched up with a trio of debutants - hooker Grant McKelvey, lock Scott Murray and blindside flanker Adam Roxburgh -Rod Macqueen's unchanged side will be expecting a relatively smooth passage, and a comfortable victory.

Scotland's strength lies behind the scrum. The trouble is that without Weir to challenge John Eales for line-out ball, the bullocking Smith to drive from the front-row and Wainwright

Dougie Morgan, the Scotland team manager, has compared him with Keith Fielding: "He's only player I can think of with the same kind of scalding burst off a standing start," Morgan said. And Alan Tait can see shades of another crosscode speed merchant in his new

back-line colleague. "He reminds me of Martin Offiah when I first came across him at Widnes," the Newcastle centre said. "Martin could run like the wind and James is the same. He's a flying machine and you've got to use what guys like that have got."

to forage from the back of the

pack they might not get much

that a dash of Braveheart spirit

might make up a liberal measure

of the apparent gulf. Failing that,

there is always the wing - James

Craig, the debutant right-wing.

20 but great expectations will be

pinned on to his jersey when

3pm comes round.

The Glasgow student is only

The Scottish prayer must be

of a chance to utilise it.

Tait has already done as much, The powerhouse performance he gave for Scotland A in submerging a supposedly "Emerging Wales" team in January not only prompted his return to the international union scene but brought Craig to a wider audience.

Craig claimed a hat-trick that day but the West of Scotland wing has become wary amid the mounting expectancy as his big day has approached. "The easy bit is catching the eyes of the selectors," he said. "The harder part is justifying their faith sufficiently to ensure that von're not a one-hit wonder."



Scotland's coach Richie Dixon (left) talks to props David Hilton and Mattie Stewart Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport during training at Murrayfield yesterday

That particular fear is a well-founded one in the Craig household. Today happens to be the 30th anniversary of the first and last cap Craig's father collected as a Scottish footballer.

Jim Craig - JC Senior - was the overlapping right-back in the Celtic team that beat Internazionale in the 1967 European Cup final. His sole appearance for Scotland was in a 3-2 victory against Wales at Hampden Park that year.

JC innior will not, however, be the only Scot behind the scrum under particular pressure to perform this afternoon. Indeed, the respective burdens borne by Andy Nicol, Gregor Townsend and Duncan Hodge are probably heavier.

In collecting his first cap since 1994, Nicol will have to contend with George Gregan in the estimation of Sid Going, no less, the scrum-half worldleader at present. In the absence of Wainwright, he will also be Scotland's team-leader. Outside the Bath captain,

nately, could also he of a dam-Townsend gets his latest chance age limitation nature. to finally take up s lasting residency at No 10, while Hodge will be a stand-off standing in for Shepherd at full-back. The Watsonian has played for only 10 minutes as a last-line since his Durham University days, but his place-kicking could prove just as vital, especially if Eales is as wayward with the boot as he was in the 15-15 draw against England a week ago.

Hodge padded up as a batand-ball international for his country before he helped to avert a threatened cricket score on his debut for the oval-ball side - as a replacement for Craig Chalmers in the 47-20 Paris mis-match back in March. His latest exercise, unfortu-

Not since July 1982, and a 12-7 victory clinched by a Keith Robertson try at Ballymore, have Scotland whipped the Wallabies - or, for that matter, any one of the southern hemisphere superpowers. The pity is they might have had a fighting chance this afternoon -- with their own particular superpowers in the pack.

GOLF: WORLD CUP

### Johansson's collapse gives Spain the edge

Sweden's challenge for their second World Cup victory suffered a blow when Per-Ulrik Johansson collapsed after the first round as Spain took over the lead. Andy Farrell reports from Kizwah Island, South Carolina.

Per-Ulrik Johansson's spiky hairstyle never looks far from unkempt at the best of times. Yesterday, as be teed off in the second round of the World Cup, the Swedish Ryder Cup player looked like the unwell man he was.

The mere fact that Johansson made it to the first tee was important because he had been on the verge of quitting, despite Sweden's position at the top of the leaderboard, after collapsing in the clubbouse late on Thursday afternoon.

Although he felt better vesterday morning, Johansson was ready to retire st any time, leaving his partner, Joakim Haeggman, to continue solo in the individual competition. Even during his first-round 64, Johansson complained to his compatriot on the 16th hole that be was feeling tired. His eightunder effort, combined with Haeggman's 66, had given the Swedes a three-stroke lead over Germany at 14 under par.

Worryingly, something similar happened to the 30-year-old Johansson two weeks ago at the Sarazen World Open in Atlanta where, despite each of his rounds being worse than the one before, he finished 11th. What's scary is that nobody has been able to tell me what it is yet," he said.

At his own request, Jobansson was taken to a local hospital for tests. "I started feeling incredibly tired on the course yesterday and it just got worse when I was back in the clubhouse," he said prior to the second round. "I'll try to get through today's round but won't get pumped up as I'm not sure about my energy level. My health must come first."

Johansson, who won twice

this year at the English and European Opens, narrowly missed qualification for the 1991 Ryder Cup match at Kiawah Island. In his rookie season, he won his maiden title, as well as being a member of the winning Sweden Dunbill and World Cup teams.

But he does not regret missing out on the experience of playing the Ocean Course six years ago, when it was a far tougher proposition than this week. "Maybe it was a good thing I didn't play in '91," Jo-hansson said. "I didn't come here with respect for the course. I just went out and killed it."

His 64 put him one behind Germany's Alex Cejka in the individual stakes. Yesterday, however, not only was the breeze more worthy of the name, but the pins were tucked away in an attempt raise the scoring. The Swedes made only one hirdie in the first seven boles, thanks to Haeggman at the second, before Johansson took a double bogey seven at the seventh.

At 13 under, that left them three behind Spain, who were the big movers early in the round. Ignacio Garrido, whose father Antomo won the World Cup with Seve Ballesteros m 1977 and is on caddicing duty this week, birdied the first three holes and then the sixth and the eighth as the Ryder Cup player and the Cup player who never was, Mignel Angel Martin, moved from nine under overnight to 16 under.

The pair are good friends and Garrido was outspoken in his support of his partner, and his criticism of Ballesteros during the controversy of Martin's exclusion from the match at Valderrama. That did not stop Ballesteros playing the young Garrido four times and he came up with three vital half-points.

With every score for each player counting, a team's position can change rapidly. England's pair of Paul Broadhurst and Mark James were languishing at two under until they went six under for their last four holes of the first round.

The finale was capped by James holing his approach at the ninth for an eagle-two. Yet both went to the turn in 37 yesterday to fall out of contention.

#### SCOTLAND V AUSTRALIA

| ot Me  | ırra | ryfield  |
|--|------|--|
| D HodgeWatsonians  | 15   | S LarkhamACT   |
| J CraigWest of Scotland  | 14   | B Tune Oueenstand  |
| A StangerHawick  | 13   | T Horan Oueensland   |
| A TaitNewcastle  | 12   | P HowardACT  |
| K LoganWasps   | II   | J RoffACT  |
| G TownsendNorthampton  | 10   | E Flatley Queensland   |
| A Nicol Bath, capt   |      | G GreganACT  |
| D Hilton Bath  | i    | A Harry NSW  |
| G McKelvey Watsonians  | 2    | M FoleyQueenstand  |
| M Stewart Northemoton  | 3    | A BladesNSW  |
| S Campbell Dunden HSFP   | 4    | ] Langford ACT   |
| S Murray Bedford   | =    | J EalesQueensland, capt  |
| A Roxburgh Kelso   |      |  |
|  |      |  |
| Contab.  | -    | W OfahengaueNSW  |
|  |      | B RobinsonACT  |
| Subscitutest 16 C Joiner (Leicester):<br>17 C Chalmers (Melrose): 18 G Anna-<br>strong (Newcaste): 19 S Grimes<br>(Watsonbus): 20 G Graham (New-<br>caste): 21 G Bulloch (West of Scotland). |      | Substitutes: I6 M Hardy (NSW);<br>17 S Payne (NSW); 18 A Heasth<br>(NSW); 19 M Captue (ACT); 20 M<br>Cockbain (Quensland); 21 D Wilson<br>(Quensland); |
| Referee: THenning (South Africa)   | ca)  | Kick-off: 3.0 (BBC1)   |

### South Africa 'can still learn' from mighty. All Blacks

champions but they still have - come more ruthless - just like on the board." . . . . en time and given the confi- will be their sternest test yet on plenty to learn from the All the Kiwis. Blacks, so their captain, Gary South Africa won the first over Italy and France have giv-Teichmann, thinks.

While England take on New Zealand at Old Trafford today, South Africa meet France in the second Test in Paris. Even though they beat their southern hemisphere rivals to win the World Cup final in Johannesburg two years ago, Teich-

b - ature

Test 36-32 in Lyon last weekend, but faded alarmingly in the final 20 minutes as the French fought back and almost stole an unlikely victory.

"We must learn from the All Blacks," Teichmann said. When you are up like that you've got to be able to finish

South Africa may be the world in mann thinks his side must be- it all off by putting more points prove by 20 or 30 per cent, giv- ferred to new Stade de France, who has never started a Test

en the new-look South African team the ideal start to their European tour which sees them take on England, at Twickenham on 29 November, and Scotland, on 6 December at Murrayfield.

Their coach, Nick Mallet,1 Test to be played in the Parc des

event in May, he will be seed-

ed directly through to the final

stages of each ranking tourna-

chief executive of the World

Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, yesterday

continued to lobby Tony Blair

over the proposed ban on to-

bacco advertising. In an open

letter to the Prime Minister,

McKenzie said he was "sur-

prised and disappointed" that

the Government had grouped

snooker together with other

sports far less dependent on to-

bacco sponsorship.

Meanwhile, Jim McKenzie,

Back-to-back Test victories dence of playing together."

With the wing James Small the only survivor from the South African squad who returned to international rugby in 1992, the Springboks are in a state of flux as Mailett seeks to impose his values on the squad. Today's match, the last Paris

said: "This team can still im- Princes before games are trans-

a tough five-Test tour.

France are seeking to end s run of four defeats against South Africa, while the Springboks are hampered by injuries to their scrum-balf Joost van der Westhuizen and their full-back, Justin Swart. Van der Westhuizen has had to return home and will be re-

placed by Werner Swanepoel,

foorth-wicket stand worth 153

runs after coming together with

Australia in potential trouble on

71 for 3. Mark Waugh missed

a deserved century after scor-

ing 86 runs with typical flam-

boyance, ending a run of

mediocre scores.

match before.

France will go into the match with two changes to the side who lost in Lyon. The giant lock Olivier Merle replaces Fabien Pelous, adding power but reducing mobility, with David Venditti coming on to the right wing as a replacement for Laurent Leflamande, Gloucester's Philippe Saint-André captains them.

on just before 6pm local time,

allowing play to continue for a

further 30 minutes to the sched-

uled close. Play was extended

the loss of three hours to rain.

NEW ZEALAND - First innings 217 (C D McMillan 54, C L Caime 52; S K Warne 4-83).

AUSTRALIA - First Innings

M A Taylor Isw O'Cornor - M C Elliot e O'Cornor b Caine
G S Bavet c Add b O'Cornor M E Wangh e Parore b Occil

### Ranatunga vents his anger

Sri Lanka 369 India 293-4

Ariuma Ranatunea, the Sri Lanby one hour to compensate for kan captain, yesterday clashed with the umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan in Mohali as India laboured to take control of the first Test, despite a century from

the opener Navjot Sidhu. During a dull third day's play marked by slow scoring and negative bowling, India took their overnight score of 91 for 0 to 293

for 4 by stumps, 76 runs behind. Sidhu made 131, his ninth Test century, but his effort was overshadowed by a heated exchange between Ranatunga and Venkataragbavan after

turned down two appeals for bat-pad catches against Sidhu. who was then on 110, during an over from the spinner Muttiah Muralitharan. Ranatunga angrily walked up to the umpire and remonstrated with him.

lunch when the Indian umpire

M Azheruddin not out

M Azramucom 707 cut 23 3 C Gengly not out 77 Edma (b'2 lis2 ris2 w2) 18 Total (for 4) 293 Fell: 1-120 2-214 3-259 4-274 Bowling (to deale): Vaes 19-7-42-0; S C de Siva 17-3-45-0; Dhumasena 25-9-43-0; Mu-ralitheran 51-9-80-1; Japanuriya 30-12-29-2. Umplines: S Ventasteraghavan (fnd) and S A Buolence (W1).

### QUOTES OF

### THE WEEK The emblem of Tottenham Hotspur shows two lions and

s cockerel and I want my team to be a team of lions. Christian Gross, new Spurs coach. I want this to become my ticket to dreams. I came by

underground because i wanted to know the way the fans feel coming to Spurs. I want to show that I am one of them. Gross, holding up a Tube ticket at his first press conference.

If he put a mask on, called himself Geraldo Francisco and came back here tomorrow, things would turn around immediately. Alan Sugar, Spurs chairman, on Gerry Francis, who resigned as manager.

 If the Titanic had been painted Sky Blue it would never have sunk. Brian Richardson, Coventry City's chairman.

HOCKEY

#### SNOOKER

Kirk Stevens, famous for his white suits and the 147 break he made in the 1984 Benson and Hedges Masters, will return to the professional snooker

Stevens overcame a field containing 10 past and present

Stevens makes a comeback comes through a play-off against the winner of the second America Tour qualifying

circuit next season. Stevens, 39, retired from

the professional game in 1993 and returned to his home in Toronto after suffering from a loss of form and personal problems. He is re-entering the competitive field after a winning a qualifying tournament in Canada that guarantees him a place among the 192 professionals who will be on the main tour next season.

Canadian champions, and, if he

#### TEST CRICKET

### Waughs make light work of New Zealand

#### New Zealand 217 Australia 235-4

The Waugh twins, Mark and Steve, yesterday shone with a century partnership as Australia took charge of the second Test against New Zealand under floodlights at the WACA Ground in Perth.

The brothers took advantage of a rule change that allowed them to bat on noder lights when play would otherwise have been stopped because of bad light. At close on a rain-affected second day, Australia were 235 for 4 in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 217 all out, a lead of 18 runs.

Steve Waugh, as usual, played the more cautious, circumspect role to finish on 79 not out and in sight of his 15th Test century. However, he survived a chance on 40 when Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, dropped a relatively easy chance at first slip, much to the disappointment of the bowler,

Geoff Allott. The floodlights at the

### P A Firstly Inc. 9 Rotal (Rer 4) 235 Rotal (Rer 4) 235 Rotal (Rer 4) 235 Rotal (Rer 4) 235 To best R T Porting, P R Rewist, S K Werne, M S Kaprowicz, B H Cook, M S Kaprowicz, B H Cook, Bowling (to defel) Doul 14-2-49-1; O'Connor Tr-3-60-2; Caima 13-6-35-1; Vettori 15-6-39-0; Allott 12-2-47-0 R Matr (Aus.) and G Sharpe ea: OB Hair (Aus) and G Sharpe

The Waughs combined in s WACA ground were switched

### SPORTING DIGEST

### Reading ready to rally

Tomorrow's main action in the National League will centre on the top-of-the-table Premiership meeting when second-placed Southgate visit third-placed Reading. At the other end of the table, Doncaster's call to the bottom cinb Guildford will be a critical game for the Surrey club. Southgate's visit to Read-

ing could be a high-scoring game, with both sides committed to attack. Reading, after their double defeat by Canterbury, have sorted out their midfield, where the tussle between Manpreet Kochar, capped by England in Egypt, and John Shaw, Southgate's veteran of more than 200 international appearances, could be decisive.

Doncaster make the journey South confident after their first victory of the season last week at Hounslow. Alan Stoves, the player-coach who played a significant part, described the win as "Terrific. We can now look forward with confidence to the trip to Guildford." There is unlikely to be

much confidence in the Guildford camp after they conceded seven goals in the last 16 minutes of their game against Canterbury to exit the Cup last Sunday, losing 10-5. In the First Division last

week, Alistair Wilson, the 13year-old son of the former international umpire, Richard, made his League debut for Sheffield against Isca to become the youngest National League player. He is again expected to be in the squad at home to Chelmsford to-

- Bill Colwill

Athletics Wilson Kipketer, who broke the old-est world record on the books, and wason Ropersi, who does are curest world record on the books, and
Marion Jones, the newest American
sprints, were named yesterday as the
IAAF athletes of the year for 1997. The
Kenyan-born Kipketer, who runs for
Denmark, broke Sebestian Coe's 16year-old record of 1:4173 in the 800
metres when he ran 1:4124 in Zurich
on 13 August. A week letter in Cologne,
Kipketer lowered the mark to 1:411.
Jones emerged as a famale version
of Carl Lewis by clocking in the
fastest times of the year for 100m,
200m and showing well in long jump.
IAAF 1997 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR-Liver.
I W Kipketer (Det) 2:322x; 2 H debrakense
(Eth) 1:294; 3 B Busian (Ukr) 1:292; 4 D Komen
(Ken) 1:02 Women: I M Jones (15) 2:56;
2 A Fidelia Quirot (Cuba) 1:27c; 3 B State
(Rom) 1:06; 4 A Kumbernuss (Ger) 1:06.

Basketball HSA: New York 100 Attacks 78: Portland 93 De-tool 87: Golden State 101 Dalles 97 (ed.) Hous-ton 127 Toronto 97: Indiana 100 Malessaine 83: Promist 69 Chicago 85: Secremento 97 Unit 96. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: National Cup Custam-Result London Romen 73 Manchester.

Greg Strong the Botton defender, has joined Blackpool on a month's loan. The 22-year-old has played only two

ipswich Town have released the for-mer Tottenham midfielder Jason Dozzel after a short stay back at Port-Dozzeli efter a short stay back at Port-men Road on non-contract terms.

The Liverpool midfielder Devid Thompson has joined Swindon on a one-month loan.

THERSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Avon Insur-nace Constraint on Fret Division: Queen Purk Paragers 3 Swindon 2. French Leaguet Auerrs 3 Hompsien: Monaco 3 Paris 3-Gen-min Q: Strasbourg 2 Narselle Q, Italian Cup-Third round second teg: Roma 2 Udnese 1 (egg. 4-5).

The PGA Europeen Tour School has been extended by 24 hours to next Wednesdey after torrential overnight rain in southern Spain forced play to be abandoned on the San Roque course. The second round will now be played today.

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR SCHOOL GUALI-PYING TOURNAMENT (Guadalanha) Leading second-round actives (58 or irl unless ested) 18A Tillians 108. 139 ASIOL (Just) 72 57; M Davis 69 70; M PIZ: (Fin) 70 58; PGolding 71 68, 1440 ASIOL (Just) 72 57; M Davis 69 70; M PIZ: (Fin) 70 58; PGolding 71 68, 1440 ASIOL (Just) 70; P Nyman (Swe) 83 72; O Fursy 72 58; C Van der Valide (Just) 71 68, 1440 ASIOL (Just) 71 71; M Bactey 72 58; P Lintert (Se) 73 57, 141 M Rantenen (Swe) 88 72; O Fursy 72 58; O Elector 75 58; J Bibliotton 75 58; J Robinson 75 77; A Carers 70 72; F Houstoy 71 72; D Septiment 75 72; R Fursian (LS) 71 72; M Perdurla (Fin) 73 72; A Reliano (LS) 71 71; A Caper 73 71; M Larner (Swe) 70 72; J Senden (Just) 73; M Perdurla (Fin) 73 75; A Paleison (LS) 71 71; A Caper 73 71; M Larner (Swe) 70 72; J Senden (Just) 73 72; M Hawkinson 73 72; A (Laper 73 71; S Alers 70; 73; C 70; D H Purk 72 72; J Senden (Just) 73 72; K Vainote (Fin) 73 71; L47 D Burnton 77 70; S Wednesdor (Fin) 73 71; L47 D Burnton 77 70; S Wednesdor (Fin) 73 71; L47 D Burnton 77 70; S Wednesdor 78 73; D Hautheon 73 72;

O Edmond (Fr) 76 71; M Booth 74 73; M Urquinart 73 74; E Camonica (ft) 71 75; J Skotd (Swe) 77 76; A Laboux (Fr) 76; F Comer (Fr) 75 72; 148 D Drummond 75 72; D Westermerk (Swe) 74 74; J Melor 75 73; C Ouran (Swe) 75 74; S Walseledd 74 75; 149 P Fowler (Aus) 75 74; S Walseledd 74 75; D Prosect 75 75; F Hughes (Fr) 75 75; S Oulminer 75 71; J Pystom (Swe) 75 74. Culniver 75 71; J. Pystrom (Swe) 75 74.

CPGA TOUR CHAMPROMSHIP (Les Veges)
Leading first-round scores (US traines statsol): 89 N. Lopez, J. Hoster, J. Gaddes, O. Andrever, L. Heckinsy (GS), 79 D. Papper, M.
Kobsysath (Japon), 71 S. Steinhause, O. Richwel, M.
McGerry, R. Jonez, L. Devise (GS), B. Burton, A. Nicholes (GS), I. Karna 72 C. Walter, B. King,
L. Neumern, Swe), C. Johnson, T. Geen, K. Webbi
(Aud, A. Screinstein (Swe), P. Huse, 73 K. Rohetley, K. Adobtins, 74 T. Myen, C. Pigo-Currier, 75
B. Muchs, M. Recham, 76 T. Barrett,
D. Wan, D. P. Schoffen, T. C. I MALMERNT, C. Lenzen, T.

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L. M. Schoffen, T. DUNLOP PHOENIX TOURNAMENT (Jap

DUNLOP PHOFNIX TOURNAMENT | Juspe Leading second-round soores: 135 T W son \$159 70 55 136 C Parry (Aus) 58 58. T F Alinzez (Phi) 68 70, K Furlesbort 68 70. Goosen (SA) 68 72, 139 M Consel 58 71, C Pa Coper 57 18, Selected 141 P McMinney (Aus) 11, 142 D Joint (U.S) 78 88, J J M Classial (8 73 69, D Clerter (n) 72 70, 142 P Serior (A 72 71, M A Jimenez (So) 72 71, C Pocces (b) 72 71 Head Tourney (So) 72 71, C Pocces (b) 72 71 Head Tourney (So) 72 71, C Pocces (b) 77 T, M.A. Jimenaz (So) 72 T, C. Rocce (8) T. 77, T. Haritton (15) 89 %; 144 M. Brooks (18) 76 (8) 11 Marsh (Aus) 70 74, 145 J. Surran (18) 76 75, 18 Marsh (Aus) 70 74, 145 J. Surran (18) 75 75, 18 Marsh (Aus) 70 74, 145 J. Surran (18) 75 75, 18 Marsh (Aus) 70 74, 12 March (18) 69 77, ASIAN PGA LEXUS INTERNATIONAL (Barghtok) Leading second-vound scenes: 134 M. Curning (15) 69 65, K. Marken (Sco) 86 85, C. Paprinci (Trai) 67 67, K. Walker (Sco) 86 85, C. Paprinci (Trai) 67 68, 157 5 Meete (US) 70 67, V. Sharidan (Ind) 67 70, 139 M. Pusay (Phil) 73 65, L. Ying-Jun (18) 71 68, P. Marksonng (Trai) 70 89, L. Pettes (Aus) 69 70, G. Herrathen (US) 89 71, 140 8 Yalas (Sco) 89 71, W. Ha-Cheng (18) 69 77, T. Knosfritz (Japan) 88 71.

Ice hockey NHL: Buffele 5 Boston 0; Calgary 2 Florida 1; Jensey 5 NY Intenders 1; Pittsburgh 2 Ottava 6; Sen Jose 3 Prelatelphia 0; Edmanton 3 ST Lruis 0; Los Angeles 4 Chicago 3; Vandouver 4 December 1

#### THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Expe Motor racing

Cuba is interested in becoming part of the grand prix racing circuit and wants to stage a race in the year 2000. A statement from the office of Niki Lau-A statement from the office of Nid Lau-da, a three-time former Formuta One champion, said Lauda and five oth-ers in Cuba on behalf of the the For-muta. One impresario, Bernie Ecclestone, found the government "very excited" about the prospect of holding the Grand Prix of Hawana. The Formuta One delegation also is "very much in favour of this proposal," the statement said.

Rugby Union
Leads rugby union and rugby league
club have been brought together under the benner Leads Rugby Club Ltd.
The move comes efter Leads Rugby
Union Club members on Thursday
voted by 103 votes to four to accept
a takeover by the West Yorkshire businessman Paul Cadick, who gained
a 75 per cent control of the club. Caddick has plans to develop a site near
the Headingley complex for a rugby
scademy.

Rugby Union

the Headingley complex for a rugby scaderny.

RELAND (v Caradia, Dublin, 30 November): K Nowlan (R: Mary's College); D Histic (St Mary's College), H Henderson (Vistor), M Henderson (Vistor), M Henderson (Vistor), E Everado (Calvadra); E (Heddalmass (St Mary's College); H Popolewell (Newassie), K Wood (Harlouirs, capt), P Wallace (Sarcard), P John (Earsame), M O'Kelly (Lordon Hish), E Wallar (Lordon); Henderson (London Hahl), E Wallar (Lordon), B O'Heara (Cork Constitution), D Henderson (Lordon Hahl), E Wallar (Lordon), D Henderson (Lordon Hahl), E Wallar (Lordon), D Henderson (Lordon Hahl), E Wallar (Lordon), D Henderson (Lordon Hahl), E Corrigen (Greystone), E Hahray (Stermon).

### CLUB MATCH: Edinburgh Acada Presidents XV 45 David Sole XV 60. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Tour malch: Sale 14 Tongs 25. Club matches: Boroughmut 29 Kincelby 5; Kimernock 8 Ayr 3 (abendoned after Sonits)

Sumo

RYUSHU GRAND TOURNAMENT (Futuniz, Jupen) 13th day (of 15): Rottements (Juryo) (von 7, lost 6); Richmanni 6, 15); Minghold, 9-5); bt Rotoryu (7-6); Minsto 5-6); Massachul, 9-5); bt Rotoryu (7-6); Minsto 5-6); bt Asanowska (7-6); Minstoniu (8-6); bt Bran (8-7); Kotanowska (8-6); bt Konishid 5-6); Minstonium (9-6); bt Affoliami (7-6); (Voluminizen (7-6); bt Kotanistic (7-6); Chilaminizen (7-6); Minstonium (7-6); Minstonium (8-7); Deprishid (8-7); Logishid (8-7); Minstonium (8-8); Minstonium (8-8) 9); Maincumi (4-9) Di remmonarim (5-9); Kulo Assimiyatin (5-7); Richinovatin (3-10); Kulo (5-7) bi Teatmourri (5-8); Walcardo (4-8) bi Territanoga (4-8); Admontum (7-8) bi Teatmonada (5-7); Techtazum (4-9); Chiyotalari (5-7); Takstorid (5-8) bi Kotoinazuma (4-9); Taksaronami (12-1) bi Higonoumi (5-8); Masantitanou (12-1) bi Walgantiarra (5-8);

VOLYO WOMEN'S OPEN (Theil) Singles, exector-finals: R Dragoner (Rom) bt C Notariu (US) 45 63 60; H Nagyous (Sto-vet) bt S (Memos (CZ Rep) 63 64; D Van Roost (Bal) bt L Courtois (Bal) 62 6-1

WTA TOUR CHASE CHAMPIONSHIPS (New York) Singles, quarter-finale: M Pierce (Fr) ix M Himps (Swit) 8-3 2-8 7-5; N Tauxin (Fr) ix I Majsi (Con) 7-6 7-8.

ATP WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Hardord, Connecticus) Renard robin, round Two: Willow Group: E Foreira (SA) and P Gabrath (LS) it M Knowles (Bair) and D Nester (Can) 8-2 6-7 7-5; J Bingh and P Hanthus (Neith) bt M Brupath and I. Paes (Ind) 6-3 6-2 Green Groups S Laneux (Can) and A Obsian (US) bt D Johnson and F Montana (LS) 8-3 3-6 6-9; T Woodbridge and M Whoodbridge (Null) bt R Lanch and J Stark (US) 6-3 6-7 7-8.

#### TODAY'S NUMBER

90

The chest size in inches of a specially made Birmingham City football shirt that has been produced for Britain's heaviest man. Barry Austen, a lifelong fan of the St Andrew's club, weighs 50st.



**GAFFER TAPES** 

People think being a football manager is just s matter of picking a team and playing golf - but it's much more complex than that. You have to be a father figure to your players, someone they can trust, someone who'll support them when they're down. Take Duane Spice, our su-

permodel midfielder. He's having a terrible time, he was booed off last week and he came to me in despair. "I think I'm breaking up, boss," he said. "People keep telling me I was never any good, just over-hyped by a clever agent on the basis. of a nice set of pins, a moody jawline, a pop singer girlfriend and that hat-trick against Manchester United two years ago."

That's rubbish, I told him, your legs are no better than Ian Ormondroyd, you've a jaw like Peter Beardsley and your girlfriend snores. Now go out there and start playing or you're dropped."

Humour. That's the only

Mind, I've needed a laugh this week. Kit Mann, my coach, has been arrested at Dover carrying a van load of bootleg booze. It's a terrible blow to our preparations, we'd put all the kitty money into that run and the Christmas Party's going to be a dud if we can't get hold of some cheap bevvies somewhere. It looks like we're going to have to put a few calls through to Carling. Thank God the Premiership's got a brewery as sponsors, imagine if it was the Castrol GTX Pre-

Not that I'm sure we'll ever get through to Carling, we've a new temp in the office as the last secretary has been suspended after making some scurrilous allegations about sexual harassment. The oew one's completely scatty, oddly dressed and usually late. When she came into my office I said,

as I always do, "take a letter, Jamaican and they've heen loves Jim Smith, Howard's

"Which one," she said, giggling. Theo she stopped, looked serious, and said, "Is this a test?" Anyway, Bridget doesn't seem to interested in the nuts and bolts of the job, just the outs of the first team, I've already caught her making eyes at Duane - that's when she's not filling in her diary.

Kit being indisposed has

dragged me back onto the train-

ing ground, which hasn't been much fun in the rain. It's been quiet as Ego Massive got delayed coming back from a World Cup qualifier in South America. Apparently his plane wasn't as big as he expected and it only fiew to an unlit field by the Mexico-US border. He had to hitch the rest of the way and he's come back with a terrible cold. He's speezing all the time.

rage of course. Three of the with a scalp like a ski slope. squad have decided they're. He's not alone, everybody

onto Robbie Earle to get them in the squad. Delhert and Leroy have a shout as their parents are Jamaican - but I think Brian Heckinbottom might be struggling. Owning a Bob Marley record and once drinking Red Stripe at a party in Kingston, Surrey, might not be enough ~ even Jack Charlton

Hmmphh. Bridget's just asked me. Do I look the kind of girl to go with a man who dyes his hair black?" I don't suppose 'Yes' is the right answer. Not that I do.

oeeded some kind of distant relative to have Irish connec-

Actually, I'm thinking of having it all shaved off. Bald is in. Look at Spurs. Out goes Gerry, whose hair had got so long at the back he had to move it aside when sitting down, World Cup fever is all the and in comes a Swiss geezer

back at Everton and Ray Wilkins is always on the telly and has a joh at Harrods FC.

Besides, I need a change of luck. We've lost a couple recently and are in hig trouble at the bottom. Judging by the way Sir Hirem Firem is lobbying his fellow Premiership chairman to shaft the Football League and reduce promotioo and relegation to two teams (or less) he's equally worried.

Given our position (the team that is, oot me and Bridget) I could do without losing Shaun Prone again. He has nipple rash after test-running the new kit - we've told the press he has flu, don't want to affect Christmas sales. Ivor Niggle's also out with an eye infection after jabbing it with the aerial from his mobile phone. Looks like I'll have to pick Duane Spice after all.

Barry Gaffer was talking to

Glenn Moore

#### **Nicholson** Major weekend fixtures and pools check 3.0 unless stated cleared of TODAY FA Carling Premiership

1 Aston Vale v Everton..... 2 Blackburn v Chelsea..... 3 Derby v Coventry \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Leicester v Bolton..... 5 Liverpool v Barnsley 6 Newcastle v Southa

Nationwide League

Nationwide League
First Division
9 Bury v Sunderland
10 Crewe v Stockport
11 Manchestar City v Braitond Cky
13 Norwich City v Orderlan
13 Notim Forest v Chariton
14 Port Vate v Sheffield Uld
15 Off: "Portsmouth v Wolves
16 ORR v Huddersfield 

Second Division 

Third Division 

55 Exeter v Shrewsbury. rborough v Rotherham \*Swansea v Chester ... Torquey v Scunthorpe ...

\* Postponed due to stadium safety prob Bell's Scottish League **Premier Division** 

First Division

46 Falkirk v Raith \_\_\_\_\_\_47 Partick v St Minen \_\_\_\_\_48 Stiring v Hamilton \_\_\_\_\_

Second Division 

Third Division Albign Rovers v Cowdenbeath ...
 Arbroath v Allos ...
 East Stirling v Berwick ......
 Oueen's Park v Dumbarton ........

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premlership Leeds v West Harn (40) .....

Nationwide League West Brom v Birmingham (10

Bell's Scottish League

travel to Swindon today know-

ing they can go above their op-

unwise, however, for them to

underestimate their promotion

two places separate the clubs at

the moment, a much greater di-

vide exists between their re-

spective resources, but Swindon

have thus far been able to sus-

tain their promising start to the

side completed the £400,000

signing of Crystal Palace strik-

er George Ndah, Middles-

hrough's assistant manager Viv

Anderson insisted Swindon

have all the credentials to claim

a Premiership place next season.

whether Swindon can sustain

promoted last season - if you

work hard for one another you

People may wooder

Yesterday, as the Wiltshire

season.

While just three points and

ponents if they win. It would be game will not be easy."

The West Bromwich defender Shane Nicholson was yesterday cleared of wilful misconduct after failing a random drugs test. A Football Association disciplinary commissioo accepted Nicholson's explanation, after a witness gave evidence that the is no hurry over Sutton, who has

player's drink had been spiked at a party 36 hours previously. The former Lincoln and Derby player had tested positive for amphetamines. However, the FA did find Nicholsoo guilty of a technical

caster Gate, warned players against spending time in bars frequented by drug-users. Swansea City have heeo forced to postpone today's hudgeted for further losses of Third Division match against £800,000 this year, but he in-Chester after their Vetch Field ground was ruled unsafe fol-

lowing safety inspections by city council officials. The problems include loose masonry, the lack of a back-up electricity generator and an inadequate internal radio network.

The West Ham striker John Hartsoo has been fined £1,000 by the FA and warned about his future conduct following comments made about the referee, Mike Reed. Hartson hranded Reed a

"homer" and said he deserved "none out of 10" for his performance in the Hammers' match at Leicester on 27 October. He subsequently apologised for his remarks. Hartson, the Premiership's

leading scorer with 14 goals this season in all competitions, also wrote a letter of apology to Read and repeated his regret over the incident when he appeared before an FA disciplinary committee yesterday.

West Ham have signed the Portuguese ioternational forward, Paulo Alves, on a threemonth loan from Sporting Lisbon, with a view to a permagent transfer

Coca-Cola Cup win over Bolton

in midweek, but the Swindon

Ndah is likely to make his de-

but for Swindon, with Chris

Hay, their top scorer, suspeod-

ed. The on-loan Tony Warner

will retain his place, as Swin-

don's two other goalkeepers are

injured. Middlesbrough will

welcome the return of Nigel

Pearson and Andy Townsend,

day is at the City Ground be-

tween the leaders Nottingham

Forest and sixth-pisced Charl-

ton, who lie five points adrift of

Like Anderson, Forest's

manager Dave Bassett is full of

admiration for his Charlton

counterpart, Alan Curbishley,

who has masterminded a de-

"Alan has done a marvellous

despite meagre resources.

The other big match of the

both rested in midweek.

their opponents.

their run, but Barnsley were termined promotion challenge

get success," he said. "We are job at Charlton," said Bassett,

drug charge Blackburn's manager Roy Hodgsoo yesterday confirmed that he is trying to tie the England striker, Chris Sutton, to a long-term contract, Hodgson said: "It's important that the best players stay here, hut there

two years left oo his contract." Debt-ridden Oxford United will listen to offers for any of their players, the club announced vesterday. Goalkeeper Phil Whitehead and striker Nigel Jemson were both placed misconduct charge and, after on the transfer list earlier this the two-hour hearing at Lan- week but the club has made it clear that every player is for sale.
Oxford's managing direc-

1or, Keith Cox, said the club are "millions" in the red and have sisted they were not about to go into receivership because their major creditors were being cooperative.

Bruce Rioch has turned down an approach to become Northern Ireland's new manager. Jim Boyce, the Irish Football Associatioo president who. along with its general secretary David Bowen, has been charged with finding Bryan Hamilton's successor, revealed that he had sounded out the former Arsenal mnager. Boyce claimed that Rioch, who lost his job as Queen's Park Rangers' assistant manager earlier this mooth, was not interested because he was lining up another joh.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has signed his youoger brother, Martin, who will act as a scout on a world-wide basis. United used him in the search which uncovered the Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, whom the manager is planning to watch in action for Argentina's River Plate.

Martin is no oewcomer to football. He coached at Hibernian for 11 years but left Easter Road in a backroom shake-up last season.

shoestring from his time at

side unchanged from last week,

when they beat Birmingham,

while Charlton may have strik-

ers Mark Bright and Steve

Frank Clark attempts to lift his

side away from the relegation

zone against Bradford City at

Maine Road. Clark's men lie

just a point off bottom place

having collected only nine

points from a possible 27 at

The Maine Road captain,

Kit Symons, said: "Everyone can

see the quality we have got in

the squad, there is no doubting

that. It's getting it together at

the right time that has become

the problem. But there is no

good having this potential, we

have got to get out there and

prove it. We know we are

capable of doing that, it's the

home this season.

Manchester City manager

Iones back in contention.

Forest are likely to field a

Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough in confident mood after the who is used to managing on a frustrating thing for us as well

Wimbledon.



Aberdeen hope the appointment yesterday of Alex Miller as manager, in succession to Roy Aitken, will revive their fortunes Photograph: Craig Halkett/Daily Record

### Miller takes Aberdeen call

Aberdeen yesterday appointed Alex Miller, the Scotland No 2, as their oew manager, hoping he can spark a much-needed re-

vival at Pittodrie. Miller, who left his assistant manager's joh at Coventry, succeeds Roy Aitken, dismissed earlier this month after recording just two league wins in a dismal start to the season. Miller starts on Mooday, leaving Keith Burkinshaw, the caretaker manager, in charge for the second and last time against Dunfermline at East End Park.

Celtic will be without three vital members for the Coca-Cola Cup final dress rchearsal against Dundee United at Parkhead. With the sides meeting again at Ibrox tomorrow week. today's match could provide a timely boost, though Celtic find themselves feeling the strain of Wednesday's 1-1 draw against Rangers with the central de-

'It's just as infuriating for us

as it is for them. But the one

positive thing is that the team

spirit and morale throughout

the camp has remained at a rea-

chance to move above Middles-

brough into fourth place with a

1-1 draw at Bradford City on

Tuesday, travel to Port Vale with

the Blades' manager, Nigel

Spackman, likely to field an un-

seven players for their trip to

Bury and have sold Chris Byrne

to Stockport for £250,000 after

he failed to settle in the north-

east. Bury will include Kenny

Dalglish's son, Paul, in their

side, having signed the mid-

fielder on loan from Newcastle

until the end of the season - just

hours after Newcastle signed

Dalglish Jur from Liverpool.

- Nick Harris

Sunderland will be without

Sheffield United, denied the

as the crowd.

sonable level."

changed team.

Rieper, injured, while Craig out of the question. He said: Burley is suspended With the leaders Hearts fac-

ing Kilmarnock at Tynecastle tomorrow, Rangers have the chance to resume their customary place at the top of the Scottish Premier Division. However, Walter Smith, the manager, is taking nothing for granted for the trip to Motherwell, who surprised Celtic with a 2-0 success at Parkhead last week. Smith said: "We haven't enjoyed the best of success against Motherwell in recent times. In the last two matches at Ibrox they have beaten us and got a draw."

Smith is without the injured Brian Laudrup, plus the suspended trio, Paul Gascoigne, Rino Gattuso and Gordoo Durie, but Sergio Porrini returns to the defence.

Motherwell are still chasing a first league home win of the fenders, Alan Stubbs and Marc

"We might be underdogs, but we have a chance as we proved last week in beating Celtic. We know how good Rangers are, hut they were involved in some game with Celtic in midweek

and are bound to he tired." Hibernian have been lifted ahead of their visit to McDiarmid Park to face St Johnstone with the unsettled midfielder Pat McGinlay agreeing a oew three-year deal. Jim Duffy, the manager, admits the need for points is urgeot as six consecutive defeats have seen them slump to eighth. He said: "You have to keep believing that what you are doing is the correct thing, hut we need three points on the board quickly."

Paul Sturrock, the Saints manager, added: "Hibs will be more dangerous with their recent

#### run of results, but we oeed vicseason but the striker Owen tory ourselves as the last two re-Coyle believes that is far from sults have been disappointing." Ndah joins Swindon's promotion push Barnwell insists directors of

The League Managers' Asso- and fast structure for a director ciation believes installing a di- of football, but each club will rector of football at clubs is "the have to define his role. For exway forward" for the game,

football are the way ahead

John Barnwell, the LMA chief executive, said: "This is the way forward. But each club is different. Walsall will do things in a different way to Arsenal, but the principles are the same. "We have to be clear about

the role of a director of football. There's no point taking him on if he is going to be doing the same thing as the coach. We are trying to make the job more spe-

"Managers are brought into a club for their football knowledge and they're expected to do three or four other jobs for the club, which are highly qualified in this day and age. There is no defined role yet. We are to the process of investigating and we want to do is build up a structure for all clubs to work around.

football go out and get him for him? Or does the coach say 'this is the player I want -go and get him for me?' And who does all the financial aspects? Who sorts out recruitment and the scouting system? "The manager's role was barely sustainable 10 years ago,

ample, if the coach wants a left-

back, does the director of

hut it is now impossible. The workload is impossible," Barnwell and his colleagues

have been studying the way continental football has adaptcd to the change in the managerial role but they will not employ the European style as their blueprint for the future.

"We have done a survey in Italy and Holland and will be looking to France shortly, where they all have head coaches but "We do not envisage a hard also managers."

### SIDELINES

### Derby's debt to Coventry manager

Shame on Pride Park if the name Harry Storer means little to most of those who gather for today's meeting of Derby and Coventry. In



the second of two lengthy spells as manager at Highfield Road, Storer influenced a young goalkeeper called Peter Taylor so profoundly that he later claimed he and Brian Clough owed their "creed" to him. The duo who would make Derby champions met when

both were with Middlesbrough; only when Taylor started quoting Storer did Clough begin thinking deeply about the game. Their mentor had also played and managed at Derby, though he advised his proteges against the Baseball Ground job (because of misgivings about the board) before his death in 1967. The young Taylor had left Coventry because of the emer-

gence of Reg Matthews, who was capped by England as a Third Division player and later joined Derby. Ray Straw, still the Rams' joint record scorer with 37 goals in a season, and ex-England No 9 Jack Lee went to Coventry in the 1950s, Storer taking Martin McDonnell the opposite way.

In the fallow years Derby recruited Barry Powell, Keith Osgood and Mick Coop from Coventry and sold them Gerry Daly, while Paul Williams visits his old club at their new home today. None has matched the impact of Arthur Bacon, a colleague of Storer's at Derby. In 1933, after signing for Coventry, he bagged 14 goals in five games over 15 days.

Ten things that Spurs' new Swiss coach Christian Gross might soon be missing



Berne's annual onioo market, which takes place oo the fourth Mooday of November and has the whole city centre crying. (Still, Spurs are sure to make Gross weep.) 2 Inventive minds - the:

Swiss have registered. more patents per capita than any other country. 3 The good-oatured exuberance of young Swiss footballers. Like the five 9 The Glacier Garden, Under-15 Switzerland proof that Lucerne was a avers who were banned – Subtropical - palm - beach indefinitely this week for last time Spurs were conthreatening members of sisteot - about 20 millioo the public with knives and smuggling girls to their 4 Swiss order and charm. yodelling.

5 Impartiality. Geneva has over 200 international organisations' HQs. 6 Valuable foreign assets. Swiss gold may be stolen, hut at least it's in demand, unlike White Hart. Lane's current imports. 7, The St Bernard Pass. Unlike the Tottenham pass, it is only unpredictable in bad weather.

8 Heidi. years ago.

10 Cheese, chocolate, rooms at a training camp. lederhosen, gnomes and

### NAME OF THE GAME No 10: THE HONEST MEN

Avr United's nickname derives from Robert Burns' poem, "Tam O'Shanter", which claimed that the seaside town was full of "honest men and bonnie lassies". The nickname "Bonnie Lasses" was apparently not considered appropriate. Ayr is the centre of "Burns." country", the poet having been born at Alloway, just two miles south of the town.





As Sheffield Wednesday

players prepare for their first

match under Ron Atkin-

to Arsenal today, they might

look back on his previous

reign at the Yorkshire club,

Eustace in February 1989. His

first match (in the old First Di-

vision) was at home to

Southampton and ended 1-1,

Mark Proctor scoring for

Wednesday and Rod Wallace

of the season Atkinson lifted

In the final three months

replying for the Saints.

Atkinson succeeded Peter

On 22 November 1947, the Daily Mirror's front page began: "A laughing girl with windswept hair sat beside a son's management at home hatless young man at the wheel of a jeep on the husy Portsmouth road near Romsey. Car drivers passed them without a second glance."

As the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh enjoyed (heir honeymoon, Portsmouth met Grimsby Town nearby and won 4-0, a result that propelled Pompey up the First Division Grimsby were not so for-

tunate. Nicknamed the 'Cinderellas' for being a small club with big amhitions, they were promptly relegated, never to grace football's top flight again. In the 50 years since, it is the Royal couple who have risen m prominence, while Grimsby have been passed by many without a second glance.

Wednesday from 18th to 15th as five wins, four draws and six defeats followed his arrival. He was not slow to make

changes. The starting line-up for the first match of the following season contained just two players - Chris Turner and Nigel Pearson - who had played in that first match against Southampton.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS Full transfers

Loans/trials Paulo Alves (forward) Sp West Harn; Grag Strong & to Parley.

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

yeny Venables a ustralize coatt par on the last is or journey while we will end wit sice in the Worl escribes what a cen in Tehran-

Control of the # NO 7 -Mary of the con-

maria Alexan The same of the con-ಜ್ಞಾನ್, ಕ್ಷೌಸ್ಟ್ ಕ T47.... Erra initia

p(= ) Pag 11. # --then ....

pa for year. Sept.

Kremlin

Carnotte Con the Carnot

## Fans ready to vent anger if Iran fall at final hurdle

Terry Venables and his Australian team are in Iran on the last lap of a long journey which they hope will end with a place in the World Cup finals. Give White describes what awaits them in Tehran.

As the minutes tick by towards today's kick-off at high noon GMT in the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, one imagines that Australia's young footballers will be feeling about as lonely and exposed as Marshall Will Kane, alias Gary Cooper, when he faced the Frank Miller gang in the classic western of that name. Only, on this occasion, the

local "townsfolk" will be rather more passionately committed than those of Hadleyville - all 100,000 of them.

For 10 days, ever since it became evident that Iran would not qualify directly for next summer's World Cup finals, the tension in Tehran has been building. It had been feared that, because Saturday was a working day, it might affect the gate, but now all afternoon work in the capital has been suspended. It promises - or rather threatens - to be the mother of all crowds.

"It's become a matter of life and death to them," said Hamid Reza Khaladi, an Iranian translator for Fifa, this week - with a rather more chilling sense of realism than Bill Shankly ever intended with a similar remark. "The newspapers are trying to calm the people but everyone here is very, very angry. If we lose the game, personally I think a disaster will bappen."

He meant figuratively speaking rather than literally -I think. The hostility which is welling up inside the Iranians is not, however, aimed at the opposition. Australia will be much relieved to bear, but at their own officials and players, whose negligence they believe has been responsible for condemning them to the lottery of



Photograph: Popperfoto

these play-offs have begun to look less and less like a lottery and mnre and more like a backer Australian victory.

Up until just a couple of days ago, Iran faced the prospect of baving to play the first leg without five of their key players. Four of them picked up second yellow cards in last Sunday's Asian play-off against Japan, a defeat which pitted them into this duel with the winners of the Oceania group, the final play-off to determine the 32nd and last country to qualify for France.

Fortunately for them, follange, world football's governing body revoked the bookings

been at more risk of receiving cautions than Australia, having played many more games. However, the suspension of Karim Bagheri, sent off in the final group match against Qatar for punching an opponent, still stands for the first leg. The ultimate libero, Bagheri was the player who scored seven goals in a World Cup record 17-0 win against the Maldives in June.

Since those heady days of the first round of qualification it has all gone awry for Iran, with much of their problems self-imposed. Many of the players were unhappy with the aphowing a visit on Monday by the pointment of Mohammad Fifa president, Toao Have- Mayelikohan as coach and the over in a blazing row at the pre-

ifying match against Qatar. It has been suggested that the players deliberately lost the game in order to rid themselves of the coach, confident that they could beat Japan in the Asian play-off if it came down to that.

Their show of player power was enough to rid themselves of Mayelikoban but was no match for the co-hosts of World Cup 2002, at least not in lessthan-neutral Malaysia.

Iran's Olympic coach, a Brazilian called Valdir Viera, has been promoted to take temporary charge of the national team, but it smacks of desperate measures. Only this week the Iran Foothall Federdisaffection eventually boiled ation, which is facing mounting ception of North Korea's Hercriticism, let it be known that

Haan, the former Feyenoord world stage, but Iran's potencoach, as national coach should the team make it to France.

This feeling of being robbed of what they perceive as rightfully theirs goes back even further, to the 1970s when Iran were the undisputed leaders of their continent's football, as reflected in three consecuive victories in the Asian Cup from 1968 to 1976.

Scottish fans will recall only too vividly how Ali Parvin's "no-hopers" made a fool of them in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina (even if Scotland's manager, Ally MacLeod, needed little help in that direction). long since realised the com-

Until then, with the sole exculean effort in 1966, Asia bad

tial, like that of the Koreans, was soon dissipated, first by the all-consuming eight-year war with Iraq and then by the Islamic revolution, which did not take football seriously. But, slowly, attitudes are

Interest in football is increasing all the time and gradually the government is waking up to the fact that the game is capable of doing considerably more for the country's image than wrestling, hitherto its most successful sport, could ever manage. Big business has mercial possibilities of such vast.

changing.

leading clubs like Pirouzi (which is "victory" in Persian) and Esteghial ("Independence") are regularly watched by crowds of more than 50,000. Only a few players earn a living abroad, although three of their best are thriving in the German Bundesliga: Khoda-

dad Azizi for Cologne, and Ali Daei and Bagheri for

Arminia Bielefeld. Iran must hope that the Italian referee, Pierluigi Pairetto, looks upon them as benovolently as he did the Germans at the climax of Euro 96. As for the Australians, if they can keep their nerve, just as our Gary did in High Noon, and more importantly be first on the

#### Capello seeks morale boost for Milan

Milan's Fabin Capello and Inter's Luigi Simoni, two master craftsmen of Serie A management, must rejig their teams after losing two pillars of strength on the eve of the 127th Milan derby today.

Milan's captain, Paolo Maldini, has succumbed to a strained thigh muscle and will be replaced by the former youth team right-back, Giuseppe Cardone.

Simoni will be without his suspended French playmaker, Youri Djorkaeff, considered a perfect foil to Inter's main weapon, the Brazilian striker Ronaldo. "We lose a lot without Diorkaeff. He gives us balance," said Simoni, whose side are unbeaten and league leaders.

"We're worse nff," said Capello, who needs to win the derby to revive his ninth-placed side's fading title hopes. "Maldini was our means to stop Ronaldo. I had a special solution for Ronaldo which made the most of Maldini's speed."

There is confidence in the Milan camp that they can break Inter's unbeaten record and win their first derby since 1994.

The missing piece in Capello's new Milan jigsaw is Patrick Kluivert, the Dutch striker bailed who was the beir to Marco van Basten but is dismally out of form. Capello, who has revived the careers of players like Dejan Savicevic and Roberto Baggio in his time, is sticking with Kluivert and will play him today.

"I don't give up easily," Capello said. "I believe that champions like Kluivert give their best on special occasions." This is one of those, with Liter 11 points clear of Milan.

Simoni's ability to pick the right players for the right matches from a squad filled with potential match-winners has led one obsever to describe Inter as "the Simoni laboratory."

Inter's president, Massimo Morratti, said: "Simoni's like quality wine. The longer he's around, the better he gets." - Chris Endean

### Kewell may earn start for Socceroos

Terry Venables is set to give the exciting young Leeds United making things different," Venstriker Harry Kewell the responsibility for firing Australia to the World Cup finals.

The 19-year-old is likely to link up with Mark Viduka in the Socceroos' attack when they take on Iran in the first leg of their qualifying play-off in the intimidating atmosphere nf Tehran today.

It would be a World Cup debut for Kewell, whn has been capped three times, but Venables, Australia's coach, has no doubts about his ability.

Kewell previously played for the international side as a wing-back but prefers to play up front. The consensus is that Kewell will replace Graham Arnold to play alongside Viduka against Iran. "He sees himself as that kind of player. Lazaridis has declared himself He's a young boy so you don't available for selection after diplomatic row with Iran last (noon BST kick-off).

want to complicate the issue by ables said.

"Everyone is up for it. We'll be delighted with any result so we can gn back to Melbourne with the smell of it up our noses." The second leg is on 29 November - the winners qualify for the finals in France.

Australia's captain, Alex Tobin, added: "We're under no illusions that we must deal with a pressure situation, but we're more excited than intimidated. A lot of our players thrive on the big-match atmosphere."

The team flew into Iran vesterday from Dubai - but only because Venables wanted to have one training sessinn at the match venue before the floodlights were switched nn.

The West Ham winger Stan

completing his first full training sessinn just before the team departed from Dubai.

When the Socceroos arrived in Tehran they were all smiles and compliments, fullowing a week of charges and counter-charges about Iranian fans, food and water.

"We have received an excellent reception, and everything has been marvellous," Australia's ambassador to Iran, Stuart Hume, said after welcoming the team at the airport. "Even if our team doesn't win here, it won't be because of a lack of hospitality or any such problems."

Hume's remarks seemed to be aimed at downplaying comments by the Australian Football Federation's chairman. David Hill, about conditions in Iran, which stirred a minor

week and angered Fifa, world football's ruling body.

Hill had said he feared for the safety and health of his players because of rowdy spectators, contaminated water, bad food and the tensions between neighboring Iraq and the United States. But on Thursday in Dubai, where the Socceroos trained all week, Hill said his players were looking forward to today's match.

Hill said his comments about conditions in Iran were based on information provided by the Australian Fureign Ministry. "The logistical nightmare we spoke about was not a concern of Iran. We had to get our coaches and players from different countries at such a short nntice," he added.

Today's match in Tehran is being televised live by Eurosport



### Kremlin gets tough with national failures

The Kremlin's patience has snapped after Russia's failure to reach the World Cup finals for the first time in 20 years and it now intends to play a bigger role in running football, Russia's sports minister said this week.

Prime Minister Viktnr Chernomyrdin was "terribly displeased and very angry with Russia's 1-0 defeat in Italy last Saturday which ended their hopes of reaching the finals in France next year, the sports minister, Leonid Tyagachev, said.

President Yeltsin was also displeased with the poor performance of Russia's players, who failed to show true Russian character," he added.

Chernomyrdin has ordered a meeting early next month with Russia's football federa- I've no offer of tion to try to find answers to other work. the game's problems. The And, third, I'm state wanted more say in the a poor man. If I'd a lot of way the game was run, he said.

The Russian Football Union's president, Vyacheslav Koloskov, responded angrily

to the flak from above. "What to avoid the major player mu-Chernomyrdin said about the tinies that marked the brief players, his angry words, his displeasure, were entirely unfair," he said yesterday. "His Sadirin, is under contract until government hasn't spent a next August. copeck nn

football since 1992, so what is he talking about?" The coach of the national team, Boris Ig-

natiev, said be was ready to quit if told tobut added that he was too poor to walk out of his jnb. WORLD "First, I've

a contract with the federa-BY Rupert tion," Ignatiev said. "Second, METCALF

greeted the 3-0 defeat of the high-flying northern club Rio money, maybe I'd hand in my Ave in the Portuguese Cup last notice now. But I can't willingly give up my job." Ignaties, who has managed Liverpool and Southampton is consulting his lawyers.

manager was not getting carried away. "We need to get better," tenures of his predecessors, Souness warned. "We are look-Oleg Romantsev and Pavel ing for a big improvement." **EL SALVADOR** 

PORTUGAL

Benfica's coach,

Graeme Souness

has had a dream

start at the Lisbon

ries in two match-

es have helped

Souness to forget

his sacking by the

Italian Serie B

side, Torino, and

lifted the bopes of

starved fans of

the former Euro-

pean champions.

euphoria" was

how the news-

paper Record

"On a wave of

Success-

Police and football officials in San Salvador said this week they are investigating claims that Salvadoran coaches and players were bribed prior to a 2-2 draw with Jamaica in giants. Two victo-November that helped the Caribbean team qualify for the World Cup finals.

A source at the Salvadoran football federation, who spoke on the condition he was not named, said: "A possible bribe nf players and the coach is being investigated." He said there were claims that a Jamaican nfficial had come to the country before the match, registered at a hotel under a false name and distributed

The president of the federation, Juan Torres, has dismissed the story as a fabrication, as has the acweekend. However, the former cused Jamaican nfficial, who





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One of the enduring pleasures of watching Everton or Wales over the last 15 years has been the certainty that, at some stage, there will be a superlative save from Neville Southail. The title of his first book, 'In Search of Perfection', summed up the goalkeeper's credo and, as Genn Moore, our Football Correspondent, discovered, age has not dimmed his desire.

Neville Southall sat down, slightly nervously, and awaited the opening question. It was his first job interview for more than 15 years, the last had been for a hod-carrier, this was to manage the Welsh national team.

"So," asked a member of the interviewing panel, "what have you done in football?" Southall, then the possessor of 81 Welsh international caps, two championship medals, two FA Cup medals, a European medal and a Player of the Year trophy. blinked in disbelief.

Southall did not get the job nor, despite a number of applications, has he been granted another management interview. Chairmen, it seems, remain suspicious of goalkeepermanagers, especially outspoken ones like Southall

But more of this later, the flip side, for Everton supporters at least, is that his lack of success in the job market means Southall continues to fill Everton's goal. He may be less dominating on crosses than of old but, as he showed against Coventry less than a month ago, he remains a formidable presence and agile shot-stopper. That game finished 0-0 and Match of the Day made Southall and his opposing number Steve Ogrizovic - at 40 a year older than Southail - their "men of the day". Did that make him proud?

"No." he said, "it annoys you. They are not looking at what you can do, they are looking at your age first, then what you can do. It's like saying flook, he's not senile, he can cross the road on his own'. I don't feel any different st's other people's perception of you - that because you're 39 you should be in a home drinking tea through a straw. One bad game is proof 'you've had it'."

latest book, a diary of last season\*. It is one of those books where the plot bas run away from its author. A bright start - a year ago this weekend Everton won at Leicester to go sixth. ahead of Manchester United - turns sour. Everton get drawn into a relegation battle and Southall is dropped,

hurts, you are disappointed and you oever think the manager is right."



Neville Southall: 'I've got to leave Everton when the right opportunity comes. Otherwise I'll be out of work at the end of the season'

A change of manager has not signed Southall for Everton from a feeling that Royle wanted him out, Bury in 1981, has also dropped him. Southall fought his way back again and, today, will play his 748th match for Everton at Aston Villa. But, with Kendall actively seeking another goalkeeper (he is currently negotiating for a Norwegian) his days must be numbered. "If the manager "I didn't expect to get dropped, does not like [the way I'm playing] ever," he said. "If it happens it he'll get rid of me and I'll go somewhere else where they do," adds Southall matter-of-factly.

Southall staved. Later, after he had at all. been dropped, he would have gone to Chelsea, but this time Royle would not release him. With his contract up in the summer any reasonable player-manager's job will now tempt him away but, given Southall's status, and Everton's failure to build on the 1985-87 triumphs, it is surprising he has stayed so long.

"I don't regret not leaving as Everton is my club," he said. "Everton is

given me great times, I've no regrets future. I'm not stupid, if something pean than British.

"I can't see players staying 16 years at one club now, not with the amount of cash flying around and the Bosman ruling. Loyalty has gone out of the window. Managers move oo so quick it is hardly conducive to keeping players happy. Sometimes you get pushed on even if you want to stay. Once you get to 28 you're on your way out.

"I'd go tomorrow if an offer

comes along I've got to consider it.

"People get the wrong impression, that you want to leave, but realistically I've got to when the right opportunity comes, if it comes. Otherwise I'll be one of those people out of work at the end of the season.

"There's nothing wrong with that, it happens to everybody at some stage unless you are very lucky. When I was at Bangor I was drawing the dole, £5 a week. I'm now wealthy enough not then get another job. Clubs seem to want someone who'll do a job'. they'll be mid-table but they won't go down." Some people, notably Bryan Robson and Kevin Keegan, have broken into the cartel but, adds Southall, "a helps if you have a load of interna-

"In business if you are a crap chairman and get sacked you would

be struggling to get another job. In

football you want to sign as long a

deal as you can, flop in six months,

tional caps - not Wales ones, they don't seem to count." It is not as if Southall has only applied to the big ones, the Sheffield

Wednesday's, the Tottenhams, he has applied to Grimsby and Scunthorpe. In the meantime he is trying to turn Everton's season around starting with a clean sheet at Villa Park today as they chase their first away

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win in more than 11 months. "We won't get relegated, we are a good side. We have played some smashing football at times. Maybe we: are missing some experience in midfield to steady us - look at Southampton since Cariton Palmer and Kevin Richardson came in. We also need a steady goalscorer. Sometimes you need a short-term buy. Peter Reid was written off when he came here, he changed Everton. It was the same with Andy Gray.

"We have some great kids, it is a case of buying time for them to come through. We could have as many as Manchester United. But Everton fans hate the word 'patience' because that is what they are always being asked to do."

Part of this is because the chairman, Peter Johnson, promised to lavish millions on major new signings but, apart from Slaven Bilic, he has not done so for a year.

"If you make promises and don't deliver you are bound to get stick; but things change overnight," said Southall. "He's an easy target and has taken an awful lot of flak. He spent £40m and, though he can get that back tomorrow, whenever I've spoken to him, face to face, he's seemed as ambitions as the players, with the club at heart.

"He needs to be honest with people, if there is no money say there is no money. It will help the players as the fans will get be mind those we've got."

With 92 Welsh caps and 891 full appearances behind him Southall is He nearly went to Wolves at the ope of the best things that ever hap-came in and the club let me. You've to work, but I'm ambitious. I want closing on two major milestones. Will We are talking in a Liverpool hotel brought a change of fortune. beginning of last season, but Ever- pened to me and I want to repay them got to remember that I have to the control, I want to do things my own he make them? "I'd like to play as as loog as John Burridge. I need another two or three seasons to get to the 1,000 games." And Wales?3"1 doo't want to start coming on for the last 10 minutes. I want to play on meras a winner than a loser. I can't see it, or oot at all. Coming on for the last five minutes is like stealing a cap."

A singular man to the last, he should not be lost to the game, .

\*Everton Blues: A Premier League People have made a career out of Diary by Neville Southall with Ric being failures. They are millionaires. George (B&W Publishing, £6.99).

### Ray Spiller has turned a hobby into a priceless commodity – and that commodity is information

The whole (very) wide world about anything in the game, tian Who?" on Wednesday when news broke of the any experts around, and got appointment of Christian Gross as Tottenham's new manager - and Ray Spiller was asked more times than most.

But there's nothing new in that - most people in football ask most things of Spiller, and they have been doing so ever since Ray Spiller Esq became the Association of Football Statisticians 15 years ago.

Spiller has a vested interest in Spurs' new head coach, born as he was just an lan Walker hoof away from White Hart Lane. But while it's indicative of football's changing face that he has had to expand his already considerable. knowledge - not to mention his database - to include information on overseas players and managers, it was actually a lack of any such information that got him into the business in the first place.

He used to work for an engineering company but (or anti-hero) status, the 44-filed football stats out of in-year-old Spiller has even reterest, and recalls contacting Spurs for information when the club signed the Argentinians Ricky Villa and Ossie Ardiles in 1978 - but he's still waiting for a reply.

"No one seemed to know anything about them," he explains, "in fact, no one

of football was asking "Chris- so I stuck some adverts in magazines to see if there were about 40 replies. So I wrote to Graham Kelly who was really upbeat about the idea of me forming a club foriginally called The Football Experts! Hard though is might be to

imagine Graham Kelly being really upbeat about anything, the FA's chief executive must be glad he showed such enthusiasm back then, since Spiller has become invaluable to the FA, for whom he compiles statistics for every Wembley match and acts as a general know-h-all - in the nicest sense of the phrase.

He also supplies data to at least eight national newspapers and several football magazines as well as Teletext. Littlewoods and Coca-Cola. And, in keeping with the

fashion of football's peripheral figures - David Mellor, Danny Baker and Eric Hall among them - achieving hero (or anti-hero) status, the 44cently appeared as a model (for the BBC's Match of the Day magazine) and is a favourite among television and radio producers keen to pit him against wannabee

But, frankly, it is like trying to breach the Manchester United defence (and Spiller



OLIVIA BLAIR

ON THE MAN WHO KNEW ALL ABOUT SPURS' NEW COACH - AND PLENTY MORE BESIDES

will know how many times that's been done in recent years): it takes a good 'un to

On Granada TV last weekend, for example, he was asked which player scored the winner in three FA Cup semi-finals but finished up on the losing side in each year's final Spiller was, for once, stumped (the answer was Billy Bremner in 1965, '70 and

Still, you would expect him to know a thing or two about

at least 3,000 books, he has where to go") on a player scornewspapers dating back to ing six goals in the Premierthe war, and his three com- ship or Football League, and puters store details on upwards of 250,000 matches and 36,000 players - that is every player who has played League football since 1888. In fact, there is not an

awful lot he does not know

about football; transfer fees can be a grey area (the figures" scored six for West Ham vary); ditto missed penalties against Sunderland.) and bookings (they are seldom recorded), but ask him about sendings-off or international caps or undefeated runs or record victories, or even about players with disabilities (there was a one-armed player who once played for Germany against England, apparently) and Spiller, like any striker worth his sait, regularly produces the goods.

It all started out as a labour of love, of course, but it has turned into quite nice little earner; the Association (ie Spiller) turns over around £80,000 a year, not bad considering it has just the one employee. And his 1994/95 income was boosted to the tune of £6.600 after his £100 at 66-1 with Ladbrokes on a Premiership player scoring five goals paid off when Andy Cole duly obliged (against

Now he is sweating on a £250 bet at 50-1 with William Christian Gross.

football His library consists of Hill ("Ladbrokes told me was livid with the then Burnley manager Adrian Heath for substituting five-goal striker Paul Barnes with minutes to go in a game against Stockport last season. (The feat has not, by the way, been achieved since 1968, when Geoff Hurst

Cynics might call him a trainspotter-made-good, but in reality he is unique in that he has turned a hobby into a come a font of knowledge on a game which is expanding out of all recognition.

One wonders, in fact, how much longer be will be able to work a 16-hour day (at least), single-handedly, out of his modest offices in Basildon, even if his task has been eased somewhat now that most of the big clubs - not before time, it has to be said - employ a statistician and/or

However, it is still to Spiller that most enquiries are referred - to paraphrase that AA ad, he is usually the man who can belp in an emergency. But even he is just hoping that, come the end of the season, he will not be the only

### Praise is reserved at second coming of Big Ron

"But it's very difficult to get on

that merry-go-round. People say

you need experience, but experience

of what? I'd rather be experienced

the point of employing someone who

sport in the world where, if you flop.

you can get another job next week.

"It's fantastic. It must be the only

was a loser at his last place.

"...And finally, it is expected est hour of need. But that's that Sheffield Wednesday will announce Ron Atkinson as their new manager..." Something tells me that the prophets might just have had something a little more grandiose in mind when planning the announcement of the Second Coming. Nevertheless, that early morning radio broadcast was sufficient to signal to me, and thousands of other followers of the Blue and White variety, that the Messiah had returned.

But is it really the return of the Prodigal Son or is Judas simply riding back into town on the Premiership gravy train? In reality, we did not have much of a choice when it came to replacing the beleaguered David Pleat; the array of charismatically challeoged hopefuls that was an offer did not exactly inspire. Anybody we did fancy was either unapproachable, washing their hair or had conveniently looked the other way to avoid making eye contact.

So my immediate response was one of unbridled joy, after all only six years had passed since we had, under Atkinson's astute guidance, conquered all before us, won the only piece of silverware of any note in the last 60 years of the cluh's history. It is undoubtedly a measure of his influence that after the manner of his well-documented departure we are, albeit slightly more cautiously, prepared to accept him back in our latthe magic of Big Ron. Even now, in the pages of the fanzine Spitting Feathers, the club's recent failings are still compared with what was and might have been had Ron not been lured away by Doug Ellis's 40 pieces of silver.

OK, so perhaps his first stint at Hillsborough was not always as miraculous as we would have you believe. His make-shift team of Wilko cast-offs, ageing journeymen and the infantile Boy Wonder barely retained its First Division status at the first attempt. It then, comically,

FAN'S EYE VIEW No 233 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY ROB HOWE

contrived to lose it a year later in a farcical end-of-season run in that saw miracles and the impossible happen with frightening regularity. However, through the despair of the summer of 1990 when inspiration and hope were desperately lacking in the Blue half of the Steel City, a force and belief of such magnitude and resolution was forged. Big Roo's self-proclaimed "Barmy Army" was born.

The opening day of the 1990-91 season at Ipswich bore witness to the growing religion and the legion of disci-

ples that were to follow the Messiah and his 11 skilful, ball-playing Apostles to the four corners of the globe. On that day 6,000 believers made the first of many pilgrimages. To say it was a spiritual occasion would not be overstating the mark. Ask anyone who was there. The self-belief that was evident that day almost single-handedly carried us through the whole season and as we progressed, so the belief grew. Promotion and League Cup glory followed, but as we all know there was to be a sting in the tail.

This time round Atkinson's brief is once again a simple one: survival. The only difference being that this time he has at his disposal a far stronger and more gifted squad than the one be inherited from the much maligned Peter Eustace, In Beni Carbone and Paolo Di Canio he has the type of players who will thrive under his style of management. The real test will be to lift the rest of Plear's demoralised troops.

Like most football fans, we Wednesdayites are a fickle bunch but perhaps for the time being at least we are prepared to forgive. Just how forgiving we will be will remain to be seen. In the meantime judgement will be reserved of course, but if the miracles can still be performed, and if there is a chance that we can carry on where we left off back in the Summer of '91, we may just find it in our hearts to forget.

### Arsenal 'cup final' sees Big Ron back in business

and you do not get much more grandiose than playing Arsenal at home. Guy Hodgson looks at the return of Big Ron to Sheffield Wednesday and at the weekend's

other leading Premiership fixtures, while Nick Harris (below) analysis the programme match by match.

Ron Atkinson wanted to be back in the big-time —

People either love Ron Atkinson's view came their last Premiership game but, as usual, Atkinson's view came at temporary basis in the wake of shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will make their last trip over the Pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will be the pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will be the pennines shows that football is not so heldoo supporters will be the pennines shows the pennine ing from one extreme to the other in a matter of moments. They daubed "Judas" on Hillsborough's walls when he left Sheffield Wednesday io 1991 but, in retrospect, "Lazarus" would have been more appro-

> Big Ron is back in managemeot, back in the limelight and back at Wednesday. Just when you thought football had seen the last of his beaming grin he bounces in again promising nothing hot a lack of tedium. "We have 25 cup finals," be said last week and this afternoon is the first: against Arsenal.

In theory it should be an easier fixture for a team who beat Manchester United in

from the sun-bed side of life. "I can't wait for kick-off," he said. "Arsenal at home is one of the great fixtures. If you want to compete, if you like a challenge, they are one of the teams you look forward to us but I promise it'll be tough

That depends on which Wednesday makes it to the field, of course. Atkinson has only seeo his new charges on television, but those who have watched them live have seen them lurch from the pathetic at Old Trafford to the sublime

for them too."

against Bolton last time out. They beast Wanderers 5-0 under the guidance of Peter

David Pleat's dismissal. The loyal assistant is back in the same role this week, although Atkinson has insisted Shreeves has had most of the input since his arrival. "I've had a watching brief," he said. "The first thing I told meeting. It's a tough match for Peter was 'whatever you did against Bolton, do it this week and I hope you do it every

week of the season'. "It's been difficult waiting for the match to come but io some ways it's been the easiest selection I've ever had. It had to be same again after Bolton. It was a fantastic result."

Fifteen months ago it would have taken a fantastic set of circumstances for him to be warmly welcomed hack by much a funny game as downright perverse. David Beckham, lauded and lamponned almost as much as Big Ron, knows that already and he will be able to retrace his entrance into a showbiz world at Selhurst Park today.

Beckham was a youngster oozing with promise before he scored from his own half against Wimbledoo a year last August and with one kick shot into general recognition. Since the Manchester United midfielder has entered surreal life that includes Posh Spice, the paparazzi and terrace tauots every time he plays.

Two things are guaranteed today: Beckham will not score going to places like Old Trafford

frequent and uncomplimeotary reference to his love life. George Best dated Miss Worlds and suffered less abuse from rival crowds than he inflicted oo himself, which says something about how the polities of envy have moved on.

United, 12 points from their last eight matches, will be anxious to restore momentum in the League again and would welcome a Beckham goal from any distance if it ensures that they keep their noses ahead of Arsenal Teddy Sheringham and Gary Neville, who missed England's friendly against Cameroon, are likely to be fit.

Barnsley used to envy sides

they were walloped 7-0 by Manchester United and today the sadistic fixture computer has come up with Liverpool away.

It is difficult to decided who you feel more sympathy for, the Barnsley team, who look to have the same chance as Christians in the Coliseum, or Liverpool who will have to approach a magnificent seven to stop their supporters making unflattering comparisons with the team down the M62.

Liverpool have scored 13 goals in their last four home matches while cooceding team who endure more noises of displeasure from their own fans than any other lead- proves that.

ing side. At least no one can complain at Roy Evans' choice of strikers today as Robbie Fowler's suspension means Michael Own and Karlheinz Riedle can complement rather than compete with each other. Paul Ince. however, starts a suspension.

Blackburn Rovers, third, face Chelsea, who are fourth, at Ewood Park in a fixture that could define either cluh's season. It is the same for Astoo Villa and Everton. If either loses at Villa Park today the poor manager will hear calls for his dismissal. Brian Little, or Howard Kendall will have oooe, which is not bad for a at least ooe consolatioo: high profile foothall bosses are hard to eliminate. Big Ron

260

### Aston Villa v Everton

Leading scorer

Savo Milosevic is likely to spearhead Villa's attack. Dwight Yorke might play, if freed from international friendly duty with Trinidad and Tobago. Goalkeeper Michael Oakes will start only his fourth game of the season as a replacement for Mark Bosnich, who is on World Cup play-off duty with Australia. Gareth Southgate is likely to be out for six weeks due to the ankle ligament injury that he suffered while playing for England last week. Ugo Ehiogu should deputise. Midfielder Ian Taylor starts a three-match ban. Mark Draper (hamstring) and Stan Collymore (banned) may return.

Everton have not won an away game in the Premiership for II months. Their major injury doubt today is Dave Watson, struggling to recover from a harnstring injury. Craig Short, who has a similar injury. should be fit. Croatian defender Slaven Bilic, who has been back in training after a bout of flu, should play. Terry Phelan is hoping to overcome a calf strain. Gary Speed has recovered from a similar in-



### Blackburn v Chelsea

Leading scores

Blackburn, beaten only once in the Premiership this season and one place above Chelsea, are likely to be without defender Colin Hendry for several more weeks. Hendry is still recovering from the knee ligament injury which kept him out for the recent win over Everton and Scotland's friendly in France, Norwegian Tore Pedersen is likely to continue deputising for Hendry while Swedish striker Martin Dahlin is struggling to shake off a back problem. Blackburn could go top of the Fremiership if they win.

Frank Sinclair could be the only survivor of Wednesday's Coca-Cola-Cup win-ever Southampton to feature in Chelsea's starting line-up. Dennis Wise is struggling to recover after taking a knock in midweek. Michael Duberry, out since damaging his ankle in September, Babayaro will come back in for Danny Granville. Gianfranco Zota, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianluca Vialli could all return while Dan Petrescu is back after international duty for Romania.



#### Derby v Coventry Leading scorer

Derby have won only one of their last six games and lost their unbeaten Pride Park record in midweek, defeated 1-0 by Newcastle in the Coca-Cola Cup. They are still without their influential defender lgor 5timac, out with a back problem. Italian midfielder 5tefano Eranio (hamstring) played in midweek after six weeks out with a hamstring injury and should continue his comeback. Jamaica striker Deon Burton will also be back in the squad following World Cup qualification with his adopted country. Midfielder Robin van der Laan is injured. Ceventry manager Gordon 5trachan is likely to start with Darren Huckerby partnering Dion Dublin up front. Huckerby went on as substitute for the former Cardiff striker Simon Haworth at Arsenal in the mid-week I-O Coca-Cola Cup defeat and immediately created chances. Despite receiving treatment all week for a thigh musde injury. Huckerby is expected to be fully fit. Coventry were beaten



last nine Premiership matches.

#### Leicester v Bolton

three times by Derby last season but have lost only once in their



Leicester will be without England Under-21 striker Emile Heskey, who starts a three-match ban, Ian Marshall is expected to move into attack to replace him. Steve Walsh is still troubled by his cracked ribs but should be fit, while Kasey Keller has returned from international duty with the USA determined to regain his first team place ahead of Pegguy Arphexad. Leicester will be looking to recover the form that had taken them to into the Premiership's top six before losing at home to Wimbledon in their last game and dropping to seventh. Bolton, 18th in the Premiership and with only two wins this season, will be without midfield playmaker Scott Sellars, who is serving the lest game of a three-match ban. Gerry Taggart is still serving a sixmatch ban. Dean Holdsworth is available after being cup-tied and missing the 2-1 Coca-Cola defeat at Middlesbrough in midweek. Holdsworth will partner Nathan Blake up front, while Peter Beardstey is likely to play ahead of the kelandic youngster Amar Gunnlaugs-



#### Liverpool v Barnsley

Liverpool will be without Paul Ince and Robbie Fowler, both suspended. Ince starts a three-match ban while top scorer Fowler misses two games. Michael Owen, who scored a hat-trick in the 3-0 midweek Coca-Cola Cup win against Grimsby, will continue up front in Fowler's place while Jason McAteer, Michael Thomas, Jamie Carragher or Patrik Berger are in contention for Ince's midfield slot. Defender Mark Wright, who has missed 12 games with a back problem,

is back in training but will not feature. Barnsley, who have now conceded 24 goals in the last five Premiership away fixtures, will be without Ashley Ward for their visit to Anfield after his failure to shrug off a strain of viral meningitis. He is the only injury doubt for Danny Wilson, whose side have not won a point away from home for over three months. Swedish defender Peter Markstedt, who signed for the Tykes from Vasteras on Thursday. could make his debut. Barnsley have lost ten of the 14 games so far this season, and are two points adrift at the bottom of the table.

#### ...And statistics

### How Manchester United apply the finishing touch

2 Blackburn (3) .. 

Leicester (7

8 Liverpool (6) 9 Crystal Palace (12)... 10 Tottenham (16).....

11 Coventry (11)

13 Wimbledon (9)

14 West Harn (14)

1 Cheisea (6

5 Wimbledon (8)

9 Southampton (18).

11 Nottingham Forest (20).

10 Blackburn (13)

14 Tottenham (10)...

Manchester United after 14 games

7th (1st) 1st (1st)

.2nd (1st)

.5th (1st)

19 West Ham (14).

20 Coventry (17).

Season

1993-94 1994-95

15 Leeds (11). 16 Sunderland (18).

6 Liverpool (4)

7 Eventon (15

4 Manchester United (1).

2 Arsenal (

15 Southampton (13)

How do you stop Manchester United? As the Premjership's other 19 clubs attempt to answer what has become a perennial question, they might like to consider one possible solution: finish every

An analysis of the season's games so far shows that United are generally more effective in the second half. If every match had ended after 45 minutes this season the Premiership leaders

would be only fourth in the table: on the basis of half-time results" they would have had

only 22 points, compared

with the 28 they have actual-

United, the champions, would have finished fourth in a half-time table behind Chelsea, Arsenal and Newcastle.

97 but tended to drop points in the second half of matches and finished only stath. If this was a weakness that Ruud Guillit identified he has certainly done something about it: this season Chelsea have shown the best second-half Improvement of any side in the Premiership, finishing games with a total of five more points than they had in the first-half table.

Wimbleden, Southampton and Aston Villa

18 Aston VIIIa (15) .....14 19 Sheffield Wednesday (19) ....14

The half-time Premiership: 1996-97

16

The half-time Premiership: 1997-98

This confirms the pattern of last season, when

Chelsea were the best first-half team in 1996-

have also performed appreciably better after their

half-time cuppa this season, earning four more points than they would have won after 45-minute names, while Derby, Crystal Palace and Tottenharn have all "lost" four points during the second

The ominous fact for any pretenders to Manchester United's crown is that Alex Ferguson's team nearly always step up the pace in the second half of the season as well as in the second half of their matches.

The only Premiership season when United did not improve on their position after this stage of the season was when they were leading anyway in their 1993-94 championship campaign.



### Sheff Wed v Arsenal

Newcastle v Southampton

Leading scorer

Stuart Pearce and Faustino Asprilla could both be back in the New-

castle team today. Asprilla is close to match fitness after a seven-

week absence following a stomach operation, while Pearce, who

has been out for almost three months with a hamstring injury, has

trained successfully this week. Warren Barton (hamstring) is out. John

Beresford and goalkeeper 5hay Given are hoping to overcome groin

Southampton's Norwegian international striker Egil Ostenstad has

recovered from surgery to an ankle injury that involved shaving bone

from the joint, but will not play today. He played 45 minutes of a

reserve team game against Luton in midweek, but manager Dave

Jones does not want to risk too early a return. Central defender

Claus Lundekvam (knee), striker David Hirst (harnstring) and mid-

fielder Kevin Richardson (stomach) are doubts, but all may recov-

er in time. Southampton will be looking for their seventh win in nine games, after losing to Chelsea in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek.

and shoulder problems respectively.

DI Canlo, Carbone 7 Leading scorer



Ron Atkinson will play an unchanged side for his first match back as Wednesday manager. The team that won 5-0 against Bolton two weeks ago did not include Benito Carbone, then out with a foot injury, but he is likely to have a place on the bench today. Midfielder Mark Pembridge continues as a stand-in left-back, while Andy Booth, who scored a hat-trick against Bolton, will partner Paolo Di Canio up front. Atkinson will also be keeping Peter Atherton as captain for today's game.

Arsenal will be without several key attacking players. Patrick Vieira is out for another two weeks with linee ligament damage while Emmanuel Petit and Dennis Bergkamp complete their three-match bans. Steve Bould is just beginning his suspension while Luis Boa Morte s on international duty with the Portuguese Under 21 squad. Nicolas Anelka is also out with an injured ankle to leave manager Arsène Wenger desperately short of forward options. Stephen Hughes has impressed recently but the youngster may be rested.



Pts

21 37 31

32 23 28

14 30 28

#### Wimbledon v Man Utd

Leading scores



Teenager Carl Cort and Marcus Gayle will be Wimbledon's attacking partnership as Joe Kinnear's options are limited by injuries. Forwards Efan Ekoku, Jason Euell and Jon Goodman are all out injured, as is defender Brian McAllister, who has a ruptured Achilles. Ekoku has the best chance of recovery for today, but it is unlikely. Left back Alan Kimble is back in the squad after being out for more than a month with a hamstring injury, while midfielder Robbie Earle is available again after returning from international duty with Jamaica.

Gary Pallister is Manchester United's only doubt. He is back in light training but could miss his first Premiership start of the season after hurting his back in the 3-2 defeat at Arsenal If Pallister is out make it, Ronny Johnsen could start his first game since October 4. Alex Ferguson will confirm his line-up today. Teddy 5heringham and Gary Neville, who both withdrew from last week's England squad, have responded to treatment and are fit.



#### Leeds v West Ham



Gary Kelly is hoping to be fit for Leeds tomorrow. The Republic of Ireland international missed the midweek 3-2 home Coca-Cola Cup defeat against Reading with a knee injury picked up in his country's World Cup qualifying match in Belgium last week. Substitute goalkeeper Mark Beeney is out with a hamstring injury picked up in a midweek reserve game. Paul Robinson is likely to be on the bench as understudy to Nigel Martyn. Leeds will be without captain David Hopkin, who starts a three-match ban, and Harry Kewell, away on international duty with Australia.

West Harn are still without Paul Kitson and 5tan Laziridis, but Andy Impey is close to returning after a foot injury, and Ludek Miklosko is fit enough again after injury to come into contention with Craig Forrest for the position of first choice goalkeeper. Harry Redknapp is likely to field an otherwise unchanged side from midweek, when the Hammers beat Walsall 4-1 in the Coca-Cola Cup and Frank Lampard Jnr scored his first hat-trick at senior level.

#### FAIR PLAY LEAGUE UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE G Willard ....8 3 34 49 6.13 P Durkin ....8 2 37 47 5.88 S Dunn ......5 1 24 29 5.80 1 Bolton.......13 3 28 43 3.31 2 Chelsea ....13 3 23 38 292 1 23 28 5.60 1 30 35 5.00 4 Arsenal ......14 1 31 36 257 5=Blackburn 14 2 24 34 243 5=Sheff W ....14 2 24 34 243 7 Leeds 14 1 28 33 236 8=Coventry ...4 1 27 32 229 8=C Palace ...4 1 27 32 229 10 West Ham...4 0 30 30 214 10 P Jones ..... 7 2 19 29 4:14

13D Gallegher 8 7N Barry...... 7 0 20 20 286 18 K Burge...... 7 0 18 18 2.57 19S Lodge ....8 0 15 15 1.88 pts. Yellow: 1pt; Includes abandoned

11 Liverpool ...13 1 21 26 12 Newcastle...11 1 15 20 13 Tottenham 14 1 20 25 14 Derby ......14 0 24 24 15=Man Utd .. 14 0 23 23 164 15=Soton ......14 0 23 23 164 17 Leicester ...14 1 16 21 150 18 Barnsley ....14 0 21 21 150 19 Wimbledon 15 0 22 22 147 Ham- Crystal Palace matches

#### FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

|       |              |     |     |     |          | Home |     |                    |      | Away |       |            |       | Form     | Upcoming matches         |   |
|-------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|-----|--------------------|------|------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|---|
| -     |              | PI  | Pts | GD  | W        | D    | L   | F                  | A    | W    | D     | L          | F     | A        | (anced accord (se sight) | opcoming macrics  |
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| è     | <b>新</b>     |     | 7   | 1   |          |      |     |                    |      |      |       | 14         |       |          |                          |   |
| 4     | Chelsea.     | В   | 25  | +13 | 4        | 0    | - 6 | 10                 | 6    | 4    | -1.   | 3          | 19    | 10       | LWLWW                    | 16 Nov Everson (FI): 29 Nov Derby (H):<br>6 Dec Tottenham (A): 13 Dec Leeds (H)           |
| T.Y.  |              |     | 231 | .44 |          |      |     | 7                  | 179. | 1    | 100   |            | 16. V |          |                          |   |
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| -     |              |     | THE |     |          |      |     | ing in<br>Linear E |      | 14   |       |            |       |          | 12                       |   |
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| à     | Southwester  | ·H· | K   | -4  | 31       |      |     | LB-                | 40   | -32  | -,0   | <b>5</b> 3 | No.   | <b>3</b> |                          |   |
| 14    | West Ham     | B   | 16  | 4   | 4        | 0    | I   | 10                 | 4    | 1    |       | 6          | 7     | 17       | WLWLL                    | 29 Nov Aston Villa (H): 3 Dec C Palace (H) 6 Dec Derby (A), IS Dec Shelf Wed (H).         |
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| 16    | Tottenham    | 14  | 13  | -10 | 3        | 2    | 2   | 7                  | 7    | 0    | 2     | 5          | 4     | И        | LWLLL                    | Monday Crystal Palace (H); 29 Nov Everton (A);<br>6 Dec Chelsea (H); IS Dec Covertry (A). |
| 14    |              | IX. | 77  | -6  | 37       | -198 |     |                    | 1    | 0.   | -7    | 4          |       | 172      | ***                      |   |
| 18    | Bolton       | В   | 12  | · 1 | <u> </u> | 4    | 1   | 3                  | 3    | I    | 2_    | 4          | 7     | 18       | ITMDF                    | 29 Nov Wimbledon (H): 1 Dec Newcastle (H):<br>6 Dec Backburn (A): 14 Dec Derby (H).       |
| 9     |              | 7   | 12  | Ð   | 2.5      |      |     |                    | 1    | -0.  | r_=7" | <b>31</b>  |       |          |                          | ger gi  |
| 12.74 | Barnsley     | 14  | 10  | -29 | I        | 1    | 4   | 6                  | 5    | i    | 0     | 6          | 5     | 25       | TIMIDL                   | 29 Nov Leeds (H); 8 Dec Sheff Wed (A);<br>13 Dec Backburn (H), 20 Dec Tottenham (A).      |

Saturday 22 November 1997 ■

### All of England knows what to expect - defeat

It is, on the face of it, an unequal contest: a profoundly

inexperienced England side against the finest Ali Black touring party to visit these shores in 30 years, perhaps ever. But Chris Hewett believes the red rose hierarchy can celebrate a victory of sorts this afternoon, even if New Zealand win the match by a distance.

You could take it as a sign of terminal desperation that England believe they can bring fresh reserves of strength and motivatioo to this afternooo's Test with New Zcaland at Old Trafford by immersing themselves in the legends of Bobby Charlton and George Best, Charlton oever preteoded to be much of a scrummager, after all, and while Best was took part in more than his fair share of rucks during his years at the top, oone of them had anything to do with rugby.

Yet Roger Uttley, the England manager, insists that the spiritual home of Manchester's unique sporting culture will inspire his callow charges to greater deeds than might otherwise have been imagined in the light of last weekend's halfbaked mish-mash of a performance against Australia. The players will be hoping against hope that Uttley is right, for they need all the help they can

It is perfectly possible that the Manchester crowd will generate more atmosphere than the fed-and-watered Twickenham throog produced last week - it would not be difficult - and an early English score would raise the roof. But Ireland managed early scores in Dublin last weekend and still had to suffer this magnificent All Black side scoring tries in their sleep as they

Given the unpropitious cir-

WINGS

How New Zealand's Jonah Lomu and England's **David Rees** measure up

> TALE OF THE TAPE

Lomu Rees Sale & . England

Height 5ft 9in Test tries

Photographs: PA/Allspor



now in his second mooth as England's assistant coach, were remotely bullish about their chances of handing the tourists what would be only their second defeat in 20 Tests (they last lost to the Springboks in Johanoesburg 15 months ago, having secured a record 63-15 victory. already woo the series). "We're trying to change the mindset of

game rather than the outcome," admitted Mitchell.

"I can only be honest and say that we're going into this with trepidation. I played with and against a lot of the All Blacks in the current party and I have to say that in the three years I've been away from the New Zealand rugby scene, they've

watched them play against Emerging England on Tuesday night, I'd say they're the best All Blacks I've seen."

Um. We're not holding our collective breath for a night of Mancunian celebration, then. If cumstances, oeither Uttley nor English rugby and it will take improved. They are now more saw him play for both Waikato John Mitchell, the disconcert- time, so our focus is on per- comfortable with the tempo and the All Blacks io 1993 ingly frank former All Black forming with credibility in this they were trying to develop at would rush to brand him a

the last World Cup and having defeatist by instinct - the portents are gloomy indeed.

But while there was much sound reasoning behind this outburst of bleak realism -Mitchell agrees with the chief coach, Clive Woodward, that the ever-expanding volume of Mitchell does not believe his ooo-Eoglish players milling side can win - and oo one who around the Allied Dunbar Premiership is undermining the very fabric of the game in this country - there are equally good grounds to believe that England will make a better fist of it than the Irish managed at Lansdowne Road.

To begin with, they are significantly stronger than the Irish in every area except the froot row. Garath Archer had the temerity to mess the great John Eales around in the lineout at Twickenham last weekeod, the back row unit has class stamped all over it and with Kyran Bracken mining a rich veio of form at scrum-half, Eogland at least possess a launch pad. Provided they kick well-and that means both high

Cullen's head or over it - they can exert territorial pressure. Not even these All Blacks score

that easily from their own 22. baby-boomer generation will take an ecomous amount from the experience, irrespective of something to think about or

M Perry.

D Rees ...

M Catt\_

K Bracke

) Leonard.

R Cockerill

D Garforth

M Johnson

R Diprose

W Greenwood

P de Glanville.

A Adebayo.

And besides, Woodward's

at Old Trafford

Leicester 13 F Bunce

\_Bath 10

.Harlequins

Leicester

Saracens

.Wasps, capt

Sale 14 J Wilson.

Bath IZ A leremia

A Mehrtens

"Saracens 9 j Marshall ...... Canterbury, capit

Bath II [ Lome.

the result. While the coaching team have been downplaying expectations at every available opportunity, the Matt Perrys and Tony Diproses of this world have been talking with breathless excitement of giving Cullen

putting Zinzan Brooke on his backside. Good on them.

in Ofcourse, the odds are piled mountain high in the faces of the home side. Quite how David Rees can even hope to stop a fully recovered, fully rejuvenated Jonah Lomu is anyooe's guess and if Jasoo Leonard fails to galvanise Richard Cockerill and Darren Garforth into producing the games of their respective lives, the scrummage could well be a grisly sight. Honourable de-

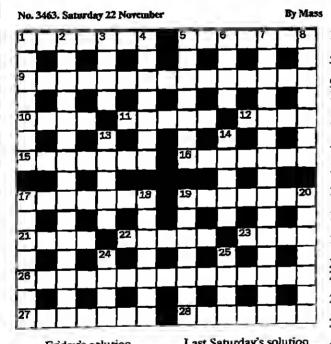
feat, however, would give

Woodward and Mitchell some-

thing to bite on. Three evenings ago, John Hart, the All Black coach, was enjoying a drink in the team hotel. "This may be a question too far, John," said an English journalist, "but if you were coaching us, could you work out a way of beating the All Blacks?" "Yes," he replied. "And before you ask it, your next question would be a question too far." Oh well, Clive. We

tried our best. Scotland v Australia, page 25

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Last Saturday's solution

#### **ACROSS**

- Strike, long and widespread (7) Red cardinal's not new
- in cultivation (7) Breaking-point? (11,4) Nothing reportedly chips this stone (4) Spring, say, built into container (5)
- 12 Save Northern build-15 Effort, time and mon-
- ey... (7) ...got deal negotiated? So, exulted (7)
- Knowing air about Mark in speech (7) Strains fed by piano: they're practised (7) A fish, one helping (4)
- Discontinutation of state function (5) Mariner inspired by Saint Nicholas? (4)
- 26 Delay actions or, in part, changes (15) Coats with checks
- worn by English (7) Creation of Man and Woman (7)

### DOWN

- Crack left in bond (7) A profitable line. once? (5,3,3,4) Bohemian topless
- group (4) Swing section mounting, audibly smooth
- Having a go at a fence Renounce last of army
- after retreat (4) Quality Southern
- properties (15) Saw resemblance in view outwardly mis-
- represented (7)
  13 Reduce one's rage (5) Wet and muddy, with
- lake drained (5) 17 One who'll take a cig without right? (7) 18 China mug is in a
- frame (7) 19 Protecting Rook's lost, producing a result (7)
  20 Trains with players (7)
  24 Farm produce, prime
- 25 Effect of one in the

#### and long, either on Christian

CRICKET

#### MacLaurin prepared for satellite TV coverage of Tests

Lord's could be heading for conflict with fans if Lord MacLaurin has his way as he attempts to boost the game's finances.

The chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board waots coverage of England's home Test matches to be put out to tender, with rights going to the highest bidder.

At present, subscription channels are oot allowed to secure the live rights but, if the bidding was opened up, there would be a strong chance of the BBC being outbid by Sky, which already broadcasts live coverage of overseas Tests, one-day matches and the Beosoo and wealthy. Manchester United Hedges Cup.

Substitutes: 16 P Grayson (North-impon); 17 A Healey (Leicester); 18 G Rowntree (Leicester); 19 A Long (Bath); 20 D Grewcock (Leicester);

Referee: P Marshall (Australia)

MacLaurin is intending to lobby government to have the existing regulations scrapped, so that cricket can follow football in capitalising fully oo its marketability.

In an article in the Financial Times, MacLaurin said: "With more than £300m required to fund the first-class and recre-

ational game, cricket is far from tal to do."

Saturday 22 November 1997

The main objection to such Football Club have an annual a move could well come from income far in excess of the fans. They could be obliged to pay for a subscription channel

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.Wellington

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Auddand

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\_Southlands

\_North Harbour

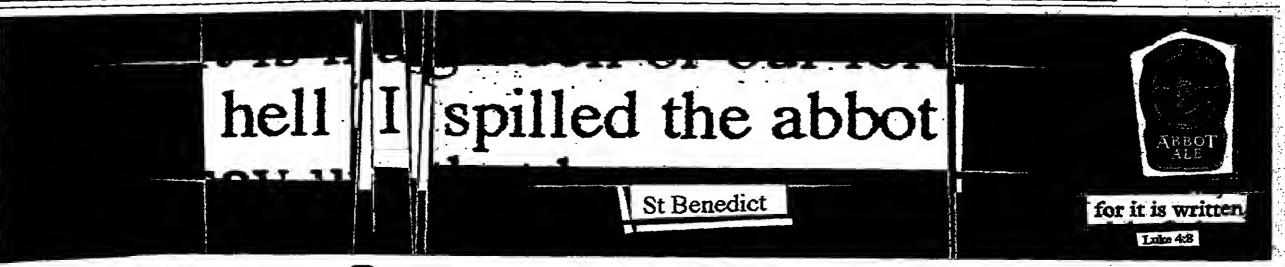
Cariterbury

North Harbour

ECB's total budget. in order to continue to enjoy "At a time wheo television watching the game at the highest level. At present, all Enghas become the sport's prime source of reveoue, all the ECB seeks is the right to strike a bal- land's home international ance for cricket between expocricket can be seen for the sure and revenue, as other sports' governing bodies have shown it is both possible and vi-

be protected.

price of the annual licence fee. MacLaurin thinks removing such games from the list of protected, prime events would simply enable the ECB to negotiate a fair price for television. rights. He suggested that matches like the Lord's Test could still



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INSIDE

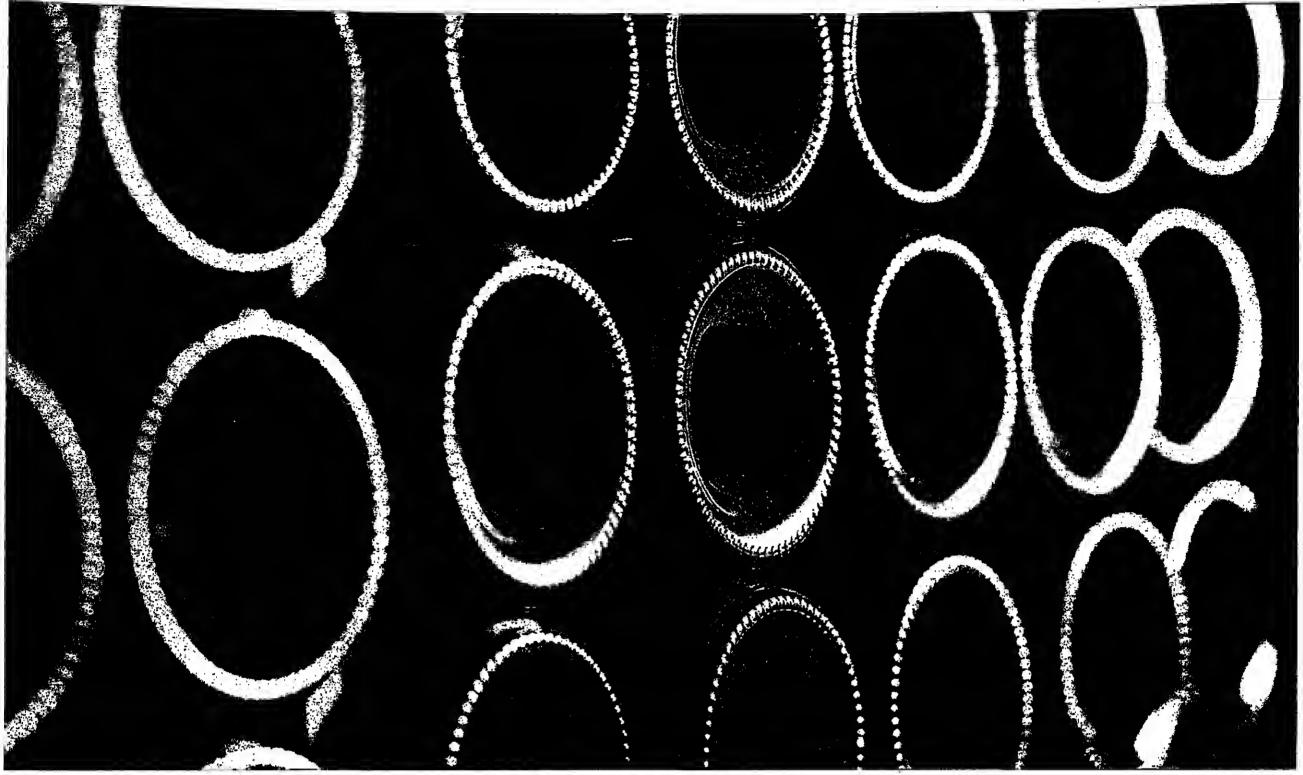
Guitars in al their glor fund manag What good

| Canals revis

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



Stack 'em up: how El Vino in London keeps itself at the ready. For other ways to store wine, in quantities great and small, see Property on page 10-

Photograph: Philip Meech

### Home hunter beware! Don't believe what you see

Home buyers all too often rely on surveyors to spot any costly defects and most have a touching faith in the honesty of sellers.

**But buyers should** beware of the tricks of the would-be sellers and be warned that the law is not always an effective remedy. Surveyors, as Ginetta Vedrickas discovers, are getting wise to the tricks as these cautionary tales prove:

Your prospective buyers are due. You throw everything under the bed, put some coffee on and plump up the cushions. This is perfectly acceptable behaviour wheo trying to sell your home. But some vendors go a lot further.

Robin Scott describes his attempts to sell his home in Brighton: "A gaping crack ran from the cellar to the roof. In the 24 hours before the survey I filled, painted and rubbed dirt

it. I even made curry for hreakfast to mask the smell of paint. "The surveyor missed it and said that had I filled and paint-

ed upstairs as well nobody would have noticed." When his first sale collapsed, Mr Scott took the surveyor's advice and, after an unproblematic survey, his

Buyers may believe that all problems show up in the surveyor's report, especially if they commissioo an indepeodeot survey rather than relying on the bank or building society's surveyor, who carries out a survey for the lender's eyes only to establish that the loan is justified. David Parkin, a chartered surveyor for more than 10 years, is more cynical. "If you went to your doctor for a checkamining someone who is wear-

ing an overcoat." They are learning to spot the obvious stunts such as the paint-disguising curry or indeed the spot the chicanery perpetrated by Michael Atkinson. His "patient" was on the criti-

oo the downstairs crack to age cal list. Trying to sell his two-up paste, it looked great and the two-down in Peckham forced him to take desperate measures after his first buyers pulled out

wheo the surveyor's report showed problems: "A wooden addition to the back of the house was about to collapse. The estate agent said someooe else was coming to view and I panicked. I didn't have any wood so I chopped the for-sale house is again under offer.

room smelled lovely," Simoo Matthews says.

Estate agents are oot obliged to look for defects in the properties they are asked to sell. They prefer to believe the best of vendors. Stephen Smith, manager of Bushells in Dulwich, says: "If you're selling a car you clean it up and make it look its best. It is the same with sign down and used it to replace a house." He explains his role:

We took down the dartboard and found lots of holes in the wall. We filled them with toothpaste and the room smelled lovely'

up they'd ask you to take your clothes off. Our joh is like exnothing of the miracle cure."

Most house vendors admit to impromptu, yet minor, deceptions. "We played a lot of darts. On moving day we took the dartboard down and found: hundreds of holes in the wail. We filled them with tooth-

"We act for the veodor and don't ask questions. It sounds awful but we don't want to know - 99.9 per cent of our clients are honourable and, after all, buying property is very much caveat emptor [let the buyer beware]."

Even a wary buyer can be misled. Vendors are nowadays

legally obliged to complete preliminary enquiries where they give information on all aspects of their house, including questions about neighbour dis-

Caroline Sherry, senior conveyancing solicitor at the London firm of Glazer Delmar. helieves most people are hooest but recalls a client who hated his ooisy flat so decided to buy a peaceful-looking hungalow. "The seller stated that there had been no trouble with neighbours. My client moved in and found they were notorious in the area. They tipped rubbish everywhere, graffitied on adjoining walls and had parties until 3am."

He could have sued the vendor, although case law is rare in this area, but has chosen instead to try to sell. "Most people can't be bothered to sue as the process is so long-winded. You may get compensation but you would still be stuck with the problem," Ms Sherry says.

Her client's future responses to preliminary enquiries will be between him and his conscieoce and admitting to a problem could scare off huyers.

"You are legally obliged to be stead to get something done get completely hysterical." truthful. If you take a calculated risk, you may be sued," Ms

Sherry warns. One vendor who took that risk dashed huyer Luisa Pazienti's hopes of a beautiful family home for herself, partner

Julian and baby Martha. "We liked the house mainly because of the garden. When we asked the vendors about the adjoining building, they said it was an electrical warehouse so we thought no more of it. We'd seeo an old sign there so it seemed to fit. The day after we moved in we woke to the most disgusting smell of fumes."

Ms Pazienti did not know they could sue but battled in-

about what turned out to be a motorcycle helmet spraying factory behind their home. "It ruined two years of our time

"Every time we smelt fumes we bad to ring up the council and there was this pathetic traipsing through our house so that they could wimess it. I found it very traumatic."

The family suffered from sore throats and headaches and were angry about the deceit. "Neighbours told me that the previous owners knew, so basically they told us a lie. This upset me as they knew we had a baby. I'd go into Martha's hedroom, smell fumes and 299 1722.

THE GIANT IS BACK

Two years on, the factory no longer sprays paint, Martha plays with her sister, Georgia, in the garden and sleeps undisturbed by fumes. "We're happy now but we've learned a lesson and will be more careful

oext time," Ms Pazienti says. Think you smell a rat when viewing that perfect property? If it turns out to be curry, paint or eveo toothpaste, then beware. Before buying, make impromptu visits at different times of day, don't just rely on the survey and talk to oeighbours.

Caroline Sherry, Glazer Delmar. 0171-639 8801; Bushells, 0181-

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UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/ "GIRL POWER" PEP

### A cheap and cheerful plan

The product: Family Assurance's "Girl Power" PEP.

The deal: Even those on low incomes can take advantage of taxfree investment growth by saving in a personal equity plan. Savers need only put away as little as £10

Plus points: All taxpayers help to finance PEP tax reliefs worth £800m a year. Among the topearning 10 per cent of the population, more than one-quarter take up PEPs. Yet among the lowest-earning teoth of the population, only 1 per ceot do. PEPs are acting as a subsidy from all taxpavers to the better-off ones who can afford to save.

Family is making PEPs accessihle to 9 million investors who can save just £10 a month. Charges are low, shaving off just 2.4 per cent a year from investment growth. The slightly cheesy title, Girl Power PEP, is because savers can stop and start without penalty, meaning they are not nenatised for a career break.

Drawbacks and risks: The minimum monthly payment is the lowest around. Charges, however, are not the lowest available. Charges do not matter if Family's investment vehicle, the Family Balanced Unit Trust, grows by enough. If you believe Family can make your money grow as fast

as top-performing investment managers, such as Perpetual, where the minimum saving is £20 a mooth, buy this. But if Perpetual beats Family's investment record it may well be worth paying the higher charges. Family claims it has stayed in the top quartile of fund managers over one, two and three years. James Bruce, of Colchester-based Corporate and Personal Planning, disputes this, ranking it in the third quartile of fund managers over one and two years. Verdict: Should be popular, though the Spice Girls probably woo't bother. Marks out of 10: Four.

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## 2/PERSONAL FINANCE

#### **CLIFFORD** GERMAN

### **Brown must** tread carefully

The shake-out on the stock exempts all assets left to surmarket in the past few weeks has inevitably had a dampening effect on investor coofidence. It would be worrying if it had not. Shares and other investments linked to the stock market are actually 10 per cent cheaper now than they were at the beginning of October but investors will not want to buy heavily until they are reasonably certain the shake-out has ended, and that is not yet clear.

Annther reason why investors are pausing far re-flection is the possible effects of the Chancellor's pre-Budget review nn taxation policy nn Tuesday. Financial advisers have been encouraging clients to buy personal equity plans, realise capital gains, change wills, transfer assets to children and set up trusts to shelter their assets against inheritance tax in case Gordon Brown makes it more difficult and less tax-effective from Tuesday. But the natural reaction of most investors will have been to wait and see rather than try and secood-guess the Chancellor.

He may well announce plans to reform capital gains tax and inheritance tax to try and make them more productive as taxes, in sharp contrast to John Major's government, which seemed ready to abolish both taxes, but never actually got round to duing so.

CGT is a complex tax, and a move to a simpler system, perhaps abolishing indexation in favour of exempting gains made over looger periods of time, would be widely welcomed but it is likely to be balanced by tighter rules on short-term gains.

Inheritance tax has become almost a voluotary tax thanks to the regular increases in the starting point to the current level of £215,000 and the concession allowing life-time gifts to escape the net altogether if the dooor survived for seven years could well be tightened up. The starting point could also be reduced if the starting rate of 40 per cent is cut. But it would be a risky move tn tinker with the rule which dustry materially.

Eagle Star

Legal & General

Scottish Widows

Marks and Spencer

viving spouses in the UK.

These are not the only areas where reform is needed. The rules on pension contributions are complicated and clearly work against the urgent need to encourage individuals in contribute more to pension provisions.

Individuals need to know how existing pension schemes will sit alongside the promised stakeholder and citizen pension plans. But consultation is still taking place and it could be two years before they are up and

Hopefully Mr Brown will see the need to clarify the relationship and reduce the risk of creating uncertainty which could discourage contributions in existing pensioo plans. He would be taking a real risk of inhibiting contributions if, after reducing tax relief on pensino funds in July, be tries nn Tuesday to reduce tax relief on individnal pension contributions across the board with immediate effect. He may well, however, he tempted to restrict tax relief nn pension contributions to the standard rate of tax. The prospect of changes

in tax concessions on savings when the individual savings accounts are introduced in 1999 is already discouraging demand for PEPs and Tessas. Although providers and advisers have naturally been trying to persuade investors to buy while stocks last, on the grounds that the tax breaks on the ISA will be less attractive, investors will be reluctant to buy more PEPs until they know whether there will be a fixed limit oo the total tax-free savings individuals can bold, which might mean large PEP investors lose tax relief oo their excess boldings.

The trick next week is to banish uncertainty even though new rules are not ready to introduce. If Mr Brown can do that the financial services providers and advisers can look forward to another humper sales season next spring. If he fails he could damage the inMONEY MAKEOVER

### **Get the** pension sorted and buy a large diary



The Leftleys will live in Fiji for three years but want to make sure they have something to come back to Photograph: John Lawrence

Names: Chris and Rebecca Leftley. Ages: 45 and 31.

Family: They have a boy of three and Rebecca is expecting a baby in March next year. Occupations: College librarian and market re-

Financial issues: Chris and Rebecca are comfortably off. They live in college accommodation and rent out a house they own in Oxfordshire which they have just had valued

Chris bas been offered a job in Fiji with a three-year contract. The pay is good by local standards but less than be is getting in the UK. Rebecca will stop working before the baby arrives and may well not find a suitable job in

If they sell the house before they go, they could expect to make a profit of £10,000 to £12,000 to add to their current savings and give them around £25,000 to invest.

But when they return to the UK in three years' time, they would have no home in return to.

If they keep on renting out the house, they would have a bome to come back to, but they would not have as big a lump sum to invest.

Chris reckons, on past experience, they would need to set aside £5,000 to meet contingencies, which would reduce the sum they could invest to around £6,000 Which way should they play it?

ton, Abingdon in Oxfordshire (01235 531388). The advice: The opportunity to spend three years on a tropical island is a dream come true. However, there are always practical considerations which get in the way.

Although your pay will be good by local standards, you will have a sbortfall of UK national insurance contributions while working overseas which would affect your pension entitlements. unless on your return, within six years, you can

£11.89

£12.30

£13.55

make Class 3 voluntary contributions to restore your state pension entitlement.

Both your own and your current employer's pension contributions will be suspended after December. The pension company will allow you to hold

existing funds in your name and you will be able to recommence contributions once you are earning and paying UK taxes. A contribution now could be considered as money paid in lieu of contributions to be missed

over the next three years. Alternatively, you could make regular contributions to a personal international pension arrangement. A suitable medical expenses plan offering warld-wide cover is essential. You will need to

investigate the availability, suitability and cost of obtaining NHS/Social Security benefits lo-With a young son and a baby due in March, sound local medical facilities are vital.

After this, pre-school facilities and your son's educational requirements will be uppermost in your mind.

Your remuneration will out be subject to UK taxes but you will be taxed locally. Housing: As you are likely to return in three

years, I suggest retaining the Oxfordshire property. House prices have increased recently and a sale now could result in having to pay more than expected when you return. You may wish to consider having your property professioo-The adviser: Michael Bell is the principal of ally valued prior to your departure and upon Michael Bell & Co, a firm of independent fi- your return, as there is potential for capital gains

Retaining the property has the advantage of "saving" agency and legal fees. Future buying costs are likely to include stamp duty, too. A good letting agent is vital while you are so far away. Happily, you are already familiar with letting procedures and this locality is well sought after by tenants.

The Inland Revenue can provide a very useful leaflet, IR140, Non-resident landlords, their agents and tenants, telling you about tax and

the UK rental income of non-resident land-

It describes the tax obligations of landlords. letting agents and tenants. Non-resident landlords can apply to the Inland Revenne's Financial Intermediaries and Claims Office (Fico) for approval to receive their rental income with no tax deducted.

Once rents are received and outgoings are allowed for, you are currently breaking even. Your mortgage is on an interest-only basis, supported by monthly personal equity plan contributions. I suggest changing this to a capital and interest basis as PEP contributions will not be permitted while you are overseas.

Selling the property and investing the surplus funds means you are investing your future bouse purchase deposit.

As a minimum benchmark, the investment must keep pace with any house price inflation. There is a risk that investment under-performance could jeopardise your future bouse pur-It is very likely that your four-year fixed-in-

terest rate mortgage has an early redemption

penalty, which would only add to your costs. Investment: Details of your existing arrangements, tax situation and perceived attitude to risk are essential before making firm recommendations. You will be liable to UK income tax if your

UK income, after allowable expenses, exceeds personal allowances. Inland Revenue leaflet IR138, Living or retiring abroad, will be useful

Your £5,000 contingency fund needs to be beld on deposit with reasonable access. It is possible to secure a deposit-bearing account with direct debit/standing order facilities to meet regular commitments.

With the £5,000 mendoned above earning deposit interest, you have £6,000 (less any pension contribution) to be invested to maintain a balance between risk and reward.

I recommend making use of your personal

equity plan allowances. While the full taxation advantages may not apply, PEP plans can provide a more economic means of buying andholding collective equity investments.

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You can continue to invest in and retain your PEP prior to your departure but unt once you'l.

are living abroad. Chris should consider topping up his PEP before departure. The family investment portfolio would also benefit from diversification by Rebecca investing in her own PEP using another plan manager and a different investment sector.

In the recent hudget it was announced that Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) seem likely to either replace or encompass PEPs and Tessas from April 1999.

No rules have been announced to date. Once ISAs are launched we can consider whether it will be beneficial to switch existing. investments into this oew product. Meanwhile PEPs continue to offer highly beneficial taxfree investment and it makes sense to take full advantage in the time remaining.

With some exceptions, there is oo capital. gains tax in Fiji.
Income from interest, dividends, etc., is not

subject to tax where someone from outside is in employment under a contract of not more than three years.

Depending on the rates offered, this might influence your local savings and investment arrangements but be sure to check on the provider's security before investing.

With all the excitement of plann new life, it is easy to forget that things can, and do, go wrong. This is an opportunity to review your need to provide essential protection for all the family.

If you are to hold property in your new place of residence, you should consider making a foreign will for foreign property.

Finally, you will need a good size 1998-2000 diary to make holiday bookings for all your family and friends. Bon voyage!

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#### Cash in early issues of 'granny bonds'

Investors are still nnr sure whether the next move in interest rates will be upwards but the upward tick in the rate of inflation has certainly increased the appeal of indexlinked national savings certificates.

The 11th issue, which went on sale this summer, pays 2.75 per cent on top of the current rate of inflatinn as measured by the retail price index, provided they are beld for five years. The interest is free of income tax and the capital is also indexed against inflation.

Uolike index-linked giltedged stocks, which are indexlinked to the rate of inflation eight months in arrears, indexlinked savings certificates are

indexed to the latest inflation figure available at the start of each sales month.

Until 30 November that is the September figure published in October. From 1 December it will be the October figure released earlier this month.

only inflation plus 2.5 per cent. But it is not really worth the while of people who bought the earlier issue switching now because the published premium

age rate which is only reached in the fifth and final year. The premium is lowest in the first year and is highest in the fifth and final year. But it does pay to cash in

reached maturity because they then earn only the so-called extensinn rate, and the ongoing interest is only indexed with no premium above the retail price So if you have a set of old The previous issue pays

certificates tucked away in the bureau, look them out now, take them in to the post office and ask to have them reinvested in the current issue. The first issues, of course,

earlier issues of index-linked

certificates which have already

on top of inflation is an averwere available only to pensioners, bence the popular name of granny bonds, and even now 70 per cent are bought by the over 55s and only 5 per cent by the under 35s. - Clifford German

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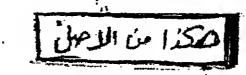
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COLLECT TO INVEST

At this price, it needs pluck

Guitars are the loners of the musical industry. If they haven't been hurled over footlights, they've been abandoned under a bed by an amateur with blistered fingers. But, as John Windsor reports, these mistreated instruments are now in demand as învestments,

Bonhams held its first guitars-only auction in June, the only one in London, and its second is next Thursday (1 lam). Saleroom dehuts dedicated to a single commodity are instructive market-makers: they tend to go either through the roof or the floor. Among stringed instruments, the auction market for guitars is the rawest and most capricious.

Whereas violins, especially well-used and mated cared-for concert and music-school instruments £1,100in the £1,000-£10,000 range, sell at auction in their hundreds, guitars are mainly solo instruments. You never quite know where they've been. Most change hands in private deals or are sold

by dealers in shops or at fairs, where buyers who intend playing them can question the vendors, It is only collectable "association" guitars that belonged to pop stars that sell best at auc-

That Fender Stratocaster may be shattered, but at least you can read in the catalogue that Jimi Hendrix shattered it. As it happened, Bonhams' first sale flopped. Of the 125 lots, only 33 sold. In an established market, an auctioneer turning in such a disastrous result would resign. But Bonhams' Jim Westbrook, a 38-year-old guitar teacher with 50 pupils in Brighton who had pitched Bonhams the idea of guitar sales, is undeterred, even chipper. He is building up a database of his target market - guitar players and teachers. They showed up in disappointingly bargain-hunting dealers, who were baulked by his bullish reserves, and by trendy young voyeurs, some unable to tell an electric Gibson from a classical Hauser at 20 paces. Several classical guitars by living makers, having failed to sell in the first sale, are back in next week's, this time with more modest estimates. This is the soft underbelly of the guitar market.

So why join a waiting list for new ones or pay a retail dealer top whack? Snap them up before learned guitarmore buyers enter the market. A classical gui- making at tar made in 1986 by Edward Jones of Oxford, the old who started his career making harpsichords and

himself "luthier" on the lahel. failed to sell

> ments will rise in price. As for investing in the rest: watch

play the guitar than to bone up on the sort of minutiae that can make a ten-fold difference in value, Each kind of guitar - 18th and 19th century classical, contemporary classical, acoustic, electric, archtop, slide - is virtually a different commodity. Each has its own arcana and anecdote. Mr Westbrook is one of the few who can tell the difference between a modern classical José Ramirez 1A and 2A. The 2A is of second quality, defined perhaps by a mere slip of the chisel, now burred over.

You neight pay.£1,500 in a shop for this fine specimen in prized Brazilian resewood. Try it out at one of the pre-sale views. A 1984 classical guismall numbers in June. The sale was packed with tar by the London maker Trevor Semple, in Honten inside a guitar said to be by Ramirez.

duras rosewood with mosaic butterfly decoration, was unwanted at £1,000-£1,500 last time round. Now it is £800-£1,000. Likely shop price: £1,800. Appearing for the first time at auction: a 1990 classical guitar by David Whiteman of Brighton. He

> London College of whose world-

famous name has heen absorbed by the London Guildhall University, and is now a senior lecturer in guitar-making there. He has been hailed by Tim Mikiaucic, one of America's biggest classical guitar dealers, as "one of the hest new makers I've found in England". timated £700-£1,000. Likely shop

price: £1,500. Mr Westbrook will tell you that it has lain under never got round to learning to play. He does find out where they've been. These fine contemporary instru-

it. It probably takes less time to learn to

Even the renowned MT who made guitars for Ramirez of Madrid in the Sixties, could occasionally turn out a 2A. But if you know that Segovia favoured guitars made by MT - that's . Mariano Tezanos Castro, to aficionados - then you will not be put off if you find his initials writ-

Stratocaster

On the other hand, PB (Paulino Bernabe) left Ramirez and became famous without Segovia's patronage. It can be confusing. Sometimes the makers simply forgot to write their initials. A Ramirez 1A in next week's sale has no initials but is estimated £1,200-£1,600. Sotheby's sold a 1A Ramirez without initials for £1,620 in its musical instrument sale this week.

Famous players do add value. Julian Bream popularised Hauser and the English maker Kevin Aram acquired a long waiting list for his guitars when news leaked out that Bream had taken to them: one sold for £2,300 in Bonhams' June sale (estimate £2,000-£2,200). Investors should also look at the electric prototype and two first-off production models made since 1989 by Patrick Eggle on his farm near St Albans, with the help of funds from the Prince's Trust. Cliff Richard, Jethro Tull and the Shamen are among pop names who have played them on stage. Estimates £450-£650 to £3,000-£4,000.

The auction price record for a guitar is still the £198,000 paid at Sotheby's in 1990 for a 1968 electric Fender Stratocaster. Fenders made af-The Whiteman, in Brazilian rosewood, is es- ter 1965, when Leo Feoder sold out to the CBS record company, are worth less. But this one happened to have been played by Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock.

On the other hand, John Lennon played Rickthe bed of its owner, who enbackers. How many people bave heard of them? As for the top-priced Gibson Les Paul Standard, pioneer solid-body electric of 1958-60, what big names played it, apart from Eric Clapton? Only about 1,000 were made, It commands £20,000-£100,000 and is still rising.

Non-association pre-1965 Stratocaster prices have risen to £4,000-£10,000, too expensive for some collectors, who are now pushing up prices of Seventies models (Hendrix played those, too). There is a Seventies Stratocaster in next week's sale estimated at a mere £300-£400.

The nearest thing to pop collectables in the sale are three Fender Stratocasters from a limited edition of 40 made for Stratocaster's 1954 40th anniversary film, Curves, Contours and Bodyhorns. A signed one is estimated £30,000-£40,000.

Mr Westbrook refused to let Bonhams' rock and pop memorabilia department hijack them. "They're the finest Stratocasters you can buy,"

Bonhams Fine and Rare Guitars, Thursday, 11am. Viewing from tomorrow, 11am. 1im Westbrook, phone 01273 328 118.

### INTERNET INVESTOR



ROBIN AMLÔT

### PC games are a serious business

You have this beige, maybe hattleship grey, box sitting in a corner of the room. Probahly in the bedroom, maybe the dining room. Perhaps it was bought for the kids on the grounds that a PC was a serious machine and, therefore, of more educational value than a games console.

Be honest, what does it get used for? Does anybody seriously archive their recipes? Maybe the home accounts and some homework hut mostly it's games, isn't it? And why not?

The games industry, as it stands today, consists of two major sectors: the video games market and the computer games market.

The video games market is dominated by proprietary standards. The average PC now has much more power than the average games console and the quality of the games available is, at last, starting to reflect this fact.

The computer games software market will continue to grow in line with growth in PC penetration into the home. The UK installed hase of games-capable PCs in the home is now probably about 2 million but that number is expected to double over the next two years.

"Invest in what you know" is, I think, one of US arch-investment pundit Warren Buf-

So, put the prospective growth of PC gaming as a marketplace alongside the don Stock Exchange or the Alternative Investment Market that derive some or all of their revenue from activities in the games market.

The conclusion is that no longer need you feel guilty about sneaking away to the computer to indulge in politically unsound digital mass mayhem. It is merely research into a potential investment opportunity.

So, while ducking, diving, hlowing away and problemsolving, which games companies should you be taking a second look at?

Among developers, the companies that actually design and create games, those publicly quoted in the UK are Rage Software, Inner Workings and Digital Animations.

There are also three specialist software publishers, responsible for the overall management of a game's development, which are listed: Eidos, Gremlin and SCi. Distribution tends to he the province of specialist distributors or the publishers them-

The sole listed UK distributor is Prism Leisure while, at the retail end of the chain, the sole listed UK games retail chain is Electronics Boutique.

Durlacher Research, sister company to investment firm Durlacher Ltd, hroker to Rage Software, has set up a new free-access website aimed at existing and potential investors in UK games compa-

The company has already produced two reports on the games industry and publishes a regular review of business developments on the Internet, the Durlacher Quarterly Internet Report.

Nick Gibson, Durlacher's games analyst, says: "It is clear that many technology companies and the industries they operate in are poorly un-

This is true of the games sector where the terms CD-ROM and multimedia tend to conjure up images of failed start-ups and plummeting share prices. Yet this image is frequently applied to the games industry, a proven and currently booming sector."

The website aims to clear away some of the confusion surrounding the games industry and the companies that work within it.

The site is divided into four fact that there are now several main areas: a historical companies listed on the Lon- overview of the games industry with comments on the major trends of the past four years; the making of a games title and how companies make their money; analysis of the most important publicly quoted games development and publishing companies; and a glossary of terms used on the

> What the website does not do is offer in-depth financial analyses of the companies but it does feature the latest consensus earnings estimates where possible, it also attempts analysis of the product and brand positioning, highlighting the key strengths and weaknesses of the companies concerned.

> By the way, who did decide that you could have a PC in any colour you like as long as it was beige or grey?

Games Investor: www.durlacher.com/games investor/

### BARGAIN BASEMENT

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society will raise rates on some of its investment accounts next week. Rates on the Albion 30 postal account will rise by up to 0.55 per cent with investments of £10,000 to £24,999 earning 7.4 per cent gross and investments of £150,000 earning 8.10 per cent gross. Call 0500

Alliance & Leicester has put together a package of unsecured loans in the run-up to Christmas. The rate for loans from £12,500 to £15,000 has been reduced from 12.7 per cent APR to 11.5 per cent APR while the rate for £5,000 to £12,499 is 13.3 per cent APR and the rate for £2,500 to £4,999 is 14.8 per cent APR. Call 0990 626262.

Britannia Building Society is launching four mortgages next week. The two-year discount rate is 6.35 per cent fee-free, two, four and 10-year fixed-rate mortgages are at 5.74 per cent. 6.74 per cent and 7.49 per cent, plus Britannia's members' loyalty bonus scheme and 12 months' free unemployment cover. Borrowers wanting to secure their mortgage payments for a shorter time can lock into rates as low as 5.74 per cent for a full two years. Contact

vices offers a one-year guaranteed bond combined with a with-profits bond to yield 10.33 per cent tax-free. Minimum investment is £10,000 and half will be invested in a one-year guaranteed bond with Pinnacle Insurance while the remainder will be invested in a with-profits bond of the customer's choice. Call 0181-518 1218.

Baronworth Investment Ser-

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Coventry Building Society has. launched a five-year fixed-rate mortgage set at 6.5 per cent with an arrangement fee of £295 and a capped-rate mortgage set at 7.5 per cent with no arrangement fee and a cash-

will quality for the society's privilege rate after March 2003. Contact branches.

Woolwich Building Society is introducing two-year fixed-rate mortgages starting at 4.99 per cent for a maximum loan of 95 per cent LTV. The application fee is £350 and Woolwich Homewise insurance must be taken. Five-year fixes start at 6.69 per cent with the same restrictions. Contact branches.

Time is running out for people who want to obtain the fifth edi-

back of £400. Both are available tion of the Chartwell With offers a rate of 6.10 per cent net for loans up to 95 per cent of Profit Bond Guide. To receive the purchase price. Borrowers a copy, call 01225 446 556.

> Skipton Building Society is raising the rate on its base rate tracker account, the third rise since its launch in July. Minimum investment is £5,000 and interest rates vary between 7.25 per cent gross on balances up to £24,999 and 7.5 per cent gross on balances over £25,000. Call 0800 446776.

The David Aaron Partnership and GE Financial Assurance are offering a new flexible access bond. This is an instant-access postal account which

of hasic-rate tax. GE Financial Assurance is part of GE Capital of America, the largest publicly quoted company in the world as measured by market capitalisation. Call the David Aaron Partnership on 01908 281544.

magazine, BESt PEP, that opens up the world of !'EP investment to first- ime savers. The free magazin- provides advice on which plans to invest in and which ones to avoid as well as general background information. For a copy, call 0990

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## 4/PERSONAL FINANCE



#### **BRIAN TORA**

### **Everyone** is waiting to see who the next victim of globalisation will be

There was an inevitability about the hid for Mercury Asset Management that should, with the benefit of hindsight, bave seen arbitrageurs building their stakes in the company. Just a few days earlier the noble Liechtenstein owners of LGT put the fund manager up for

At £40bn of funds under management, this previously British company is less than half MAM's size, but no small player either. Yet the reason for the sale was given as the globalisation of the fund management industry. It seems in the view of the owners, LGT was too small to survive by itself.

In a comparatively short space of time a large number of seemingly impregnable British financial institutions have fallen to foreign predators - all in the cause of globalisation.

Warburgs is now part of Swiss Bank Corporation, Kleinworts of Dresdner Bank. Morgan Grenfell fell to Deutsche Bank some years back, but perhaps that just shows the prescience of Germany's leading bank.

The deals have come thick and fast recently. The acquisition of BA Financial Services, which includes such household names as Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star in the UK, by Swiss insurance giant Zurich, bas also created a major multinational fund management force.

It seems these days that big really is beautiful.

Naturally enough, speculation is now rife on who will be the next to fall. The trouble is that most of the players dubbed the most powerful woman in in the UK are simply not big enough to Britain either. interest the likes of the major US houses, The MAM deal puts Merrill firmly in the No 2 position in the world, behind Fidelity of America.

Consolidation in the US has been taking place already and some domestic companies, such as Invesco, the fund management group that has its origins are buying are principally individuals, in the old Slater Walker investment banking business, have turned their attentions to the other side of the Atlantic as the only way of achieving the size that like that and your expensively acquired Strategy Committee of stockbrokers Greig many perceive now to be necessary to assets walk out the door. There are al- Middleton.



There are always many willing to recruit, Nicola Horlick among them

win the major institutional mandates that are so highly sought after.

The investment clout that these indevelopment of retail products, which both adds to and benefits from the public perception of the fund management operation. And it does no harm economy for that matter, is in a mess. to have your most senior fired manager

In practice it is very difficult to spot the next takeover victim. Few would have expected MAM to be a willing target but this is an agreed bid from America's most powerful brokerage house.

Fund management is, after all, a peo-ple business. The assets Merrill Lynch people well skilled in winning and retaining investment portfolios.

Make a mess of managing a business

Thought for the day

ways many willing to recruit, not least being Nicola Horlick, who was herself once at Mercury.

If investment attention is firmly focused on domestic players in investment management, it can only be because the Far East is being studiously ignored by

managers in London at present.

If it had not been for the US brokers' largesse in London, I would have been writing about Japan.

The market there has been plunging up and down in a fashion that should be a comedy writer's delight. First economic measures are badly received, then a bank goes bust - and shares rise.

Then worries filter through that the authorities might just bail out the beleaguered financial sector - leading to a sharp downward correction. And, of course, in the end buyers start bargain hunting - up we go again.

Except, of course, it is oot really the end. What the final act will usber in for the market that was once bigger even than Wall Street is hard to gauge.

Most foreign investors are sitting on the sidelines, either having withdrawn from an investment area where damage has been meted out on both the currency and share front, or wishing fervently that they had the foresightedness to bave stitutional funds provide can allow the withdrawn, as Templeton did back in the

Deregulation looks more of a reality oow, but the financial sector, and the

Just over the sea, another major local economy is also suffering from the aftershocks that have travelled around the

Korea is fortunately trying to tough it out. Quite whether the IMF would be able to bail out an economy that is comprebensively bigger than most of the other so-called Tigers in the region put together is a moot point.

In the meantime it looks a "won-way" ticket to nowhere.

Brian Tora is chairman of the Investment

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### The best interest rates are in the post

Since the Bank of England was given responsibility for setting interest rates after the last general election, it has nudged the cost of money upward as a means of controlling inflation. This is good news for savers.

However, finding the highest rates of return for your cash is not straightforward. Postal accounts offered by banks and building societies offer some of the best deals but are subject to terms and conditions which need close scrutiny.

gross interest payable in bold type but these rates are only available to non-taxpayers. Basic-rate income tax is deducted from interest at source. form, available from post offices, to apply for interest to be paid gross.

Basic-rate taxpayers need do nothing but those paying the highest marginal rate will have to declare their income from interest and dividends on their anoual tax returns and sec their interest further reduced. .

Now include the effects of inflation. An account paying 7.5 £100 and interest payable falls per cent gross will return 6.0 per cent net to a basic-rate taxpayer and 4.5 per cent net to someone on the higher rate. With inflation at a 12-month average nf 3.6 per cent at the end nf September, the real income oet of inflation from the investment does not leave much Rock also allows only three room for Christmas spending

Postal deposit accounts were Gloucester Building Society in 1989. According to C&G's Debbie Isaacs, the rationale was simple: "We could affer higher rates by post because accounts did not incur the overheads arising from our branch network.

Postal accounts do unt have the scary connotations that direct and electronic banking hold for many customers."

This may be so, but sifting through fine-print terms and conditions reveals that some uf

these accounts may carry substantial penalties.

Most accounts offer a choice of monthly or annual interest. Both are variable rates, but monthly interest can be remitted to your current account as income. Annual interest will be credited to your account in arrears over a 12-month period after the day it opened.

Interest on monthly accounts will usually be between 0.25 per cent and 0.5 per cent lower than that available on an Many lenders advertise annual basis. Choosing the highest rate of annual interest seems like common sense until the costs of early withdrawal are taken into account.

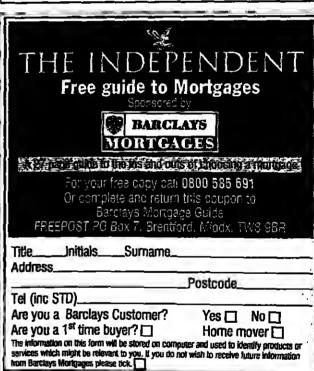
Because interest is paid at Non-taxpayers can use an R85 the year end, withdrawals must come from the starting balance. Withdrawing amounts from the starting balance may reduce the marginal rate of interest earned on the account.

For example, anyone with £25,000 to invest would choose Yorkshire Building Society, offering 6.80 per cent, against Clydesdale Bank's flat rate of 6.75 per cent. But withdraw to 6.55 per cent.

Other important differences emerge between account providers. Alliance & Leicester offers competitive rates, but allows only three withdrawals a year, with a minimum £500 for each transaction. Northern transactions, but with minimum values of £1,000.

These rates apply to instant introduced by Cheltenham & access postal accounts. Notice accounts are also available by post, on terms ranging from 30 to 120 days. The number and value of permitted transactions on these accounts will be subject to additional restrictions. If you have mnney in go nn

deposit, postal accounts may offer the best returns, but be sure that the type of account chosen is appropriate to any likely change in your circumstances. Otherwise it could prove more expensive than you anticipated.



All rates are shown gress and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500617

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of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. INDBB3S

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### Inertia index has a better track record than many fund managers

says my dictionary, is "having no ability to move or to resist motion; inactive, lazy or sluggish". Not exactly complimentary, is it? But inertia is a much misunderstood lady, at least as far as the stock market is concerned. Take a look, for example, at the figures in the table, which comes courtesy of the investment trust analysis at NatWest Markets.

The table is the product of a technique which the NatWest analysts choose to call "inertia analysis". The idea is to try and measure how much difference the investment decisions of investment trust managers have actually made to the value of their funds over time.

This is how it works. What NatWest does is to take the portfolios of some of the largest investment trusts at various dates, typically one, three, five, 10 and 20 years ago. They then look at how the assets of the trusts were split at the time; how much in the UK, how much in the United States, how much io Japan and so on. They then calculate what the trusts' performance would have been had the managers at the time frozen the fund and gooe to sleep, leaving the weightings of the funds unchanged.

It sounds complicated, but really this is a fairly straightforward exercise in number crunching. When the computer some trusts doing better than inproduces the "what if" figure, ertia, and others failing to do as

achieve over the same time frame. Divide one figure by the other and, hey presto, you have a simple, albeit crude, measure of how much "value" the manager has added through his decisions over the years. A positive figure in the table shows that a trust has outperformed its relevant "inertia index"; a negative figure that it has failed to beat a policy of doing nothing.

But here's the ruh: for many investment trusts, over quite long periods of time, they don't outperform the "do nothing" portfolio. There are always plenty of negative percentage figure in the tables, meaning that inertia, inactive, sluggish or lazy as she may be, has consistently the hetter track record.

In fact, to take an extreme example, if you apply the inertia analysis to the 10 largest international generalist investment trusts, and look at their performance over 10 years, oot one of them managed to add any value on this score. The figures range from Monks, the best with a 2.7 per cent shortfall against its mertia benchmark, to Scottish American, which came up nearly 22 per ceot short of the value a no-change portfolio would have produced.

Over other periods, the picture is more halanced, with the analysts simply compare it well. When NatWest widened the United States during the last

The meaning of the word inert, with the actual performance the the sample to include the 24 fund managers have managed to largest trusts for which this exercise could realistically be carried out, only over one year did more than half the trusts do better than the relevant "do nothing" index. Most years, most general investment trusts failed to add value. The fund manager could have stayed at home, which would at least have saved on his management fees.

Now at this point one has to enter some important caveats. As Hamish Buchan of NatWest says, the inertia exercise is not as precise as it could be. There are some technical reasons why the comparisons may not he as fair to investment trust managers as they should be. In periods when sterling is strong, for example, you would expect trusts with large international holdings to do less well than a composite index figure.

A second interesting point is that outperforming the inertia index does not in itself guarantee that a trust will be among the best performing in its sector when you measure absolute renums. The reason for this is that no amount of skill can make up for being in the wrong markets in the first place. If you are running a large and well-diversified portfolio, as most of these investment trusts are, picking the right markets to invest in is more important than picking the right individual stocks. Any manager who has stayed fully invested in

#### **Top and Bottom Value-Adders**

Sample of 24 over three years and 10 over 10 years + is outperformance in per cent

| - is underperformance | e in per cent |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Three years           |               |
| Top                   | Bottom        |

| ŀ | Monks                  | +6.9 | British Empire Secur | -14.8 |  |
|---|------------------------|------|----------------------|-------|--|
| ŀ | Scottish Mortgage      | +6.7 | British Assets       | -12.6 |  |
|   | Scottish Eastern       | +4.5 | Dunedin Worldwide    | -10.0 |  |
|   | Scottish Investment    | +4.2 | Scottish American    | -9.8  |  |
|   | Securities Tst of Scot |      | Second Alliance      | -6.2  |  |
|   | Ten years              |      |                      | ٠     |  |
|   | Top                    |      | Bettom               |       |  |
|   | Monks                  | -27  | Scottish American    | -21.6 |  |
|   | Alliance               | -2.8 | Witan                | -17.5 |  |
| i | Foreign & Colonial     | -3.1 | Scottish Investment  | -15.7 |  |
| į | Second Alliance        | -3.2 | Scottish Eastern     | -10.7 |  |
|   | Scottish Mortgage      | -5.0 | Anglo & Overseas     | -6.9  |  |
|   |                        |      |                      |       |  |

legs of the bull market there, for has proved to have such a good example, will have done better than anyone who invested in Japan, even if the latter beat the Tokyo index by a mile and the former failed to keep pace with

the Dow Jones index. Fund managers could also argue that the long term of, say. 10 years is made up of a succession of short terms, say, one year, where they have done relatively well. So inertia has her limits. The caveats should not be allowed to disguise the importance of the general conclusion, however. The lesson, which we already knew from studies of unit trust performance, is that it is very difficult for professional investment managers to outperform the market averages consistently over time.

Once you take the cost of hiring the manager into account, then tot up the transaction costs involved in buying and selling so many shares, the returns often don't justify the expense of active management. This is just another way of saying index funds have a lot going for them. They don't absolve you of the oeed to decide how much mooey you should have invested in the stock market, but they provide a relatively cost effective way of

gaining that exposure.

track record, it does not mean that investment trusts are necessarily a poor place to invest. Because of the discount fac-

tor - the fact that the asset value and share price of an investment trust don't move hand in hand - the reverse can often be the case. If you buy when discounts are low, and they subsequently move in your favour, investment trust shares will produce a better return than either an index fund or the equivalent unit trust. For the past three years, with discounts widening, returns to shareholders in the higger investment trusts have suffered. Most have underperformed the All Share index. But over the longer term, there is no need to write off the big generalist investment trusts.

One can't leave the subject without a word of praise for the fund managers at Scottish Mortgage and Scottish Eastern (run by Baillie Gifford and Martin Currie respectively). Over one and three years, they have managed a distinguished double coming high in the rankings for absolute returns and also beating a policy of inertia investing as well. In Edinburgh, at least, someone is still flying the flag for Equally, just because inertia active investment.

### UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

### Don't gamble unless you have money to lose

for advice on investing in shares and the achieve your goals. chances are you will be given six different answers. This is after you have provided all the relevant information such as your age. income, assets and liabilities, family commitments, future plans and your attitude towards risk. The fact of the matter is there is no "right" way. But there are ways which should be avoided.

There is no shortage of people with views on what shares to buy to make a fortune. In the belief that garments made from sackcloth are going to be the fashion for the millennium, they could wax lyrical about a small quoted company which is in an ideal position to corner the market. Of course, you are to tell no one else and both of you will make a fortune.

However, if you are serious about making money from the stock market and you do not have money to lose, do not adopt a gambling instinct. Of course, you may pick a share which is a winner, but on the other hand, you may lose your shirt.

On a serious note regarding tips from friends who work for a company, there are very strict rules regarding acting on privileged information (ie unpublished facts) which, when revealed, will influence a share's price. Insider dealing, as it is called, is a criminal offence.

While you may also do well by sticking a pin in the shares listed on the business pages, you could just as easily pick a Polly Peck, Lowndes Queensway or some other company which is destined to he worthless in the future. I once heard of an investor who bought low-priced shares in companies with unusual-sounding names. Neither of these ways is recommended.

Before you begin to decide what you are to buy, you must give some serious thought to your own position. Assuming that you have adequate pension arrangements and a suitable cash reserve, what money can you afford to invest in the stock market? What are you looking for? Do you want to build a capital sum for the future, or are you really looking for income?

If you are within a few years of retiremeot, and are relying oo a share portfolio your skill in stock selection. to pay off debts or buy an annuity, time is not on your side to recover from any losses. Your priority is likely to be preservatico of capital while seeking ways to generate additional income. It is likely that lowerrisk shares, together with gilts, unit trusts 14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5BQ.

Go to half a dozen reputable stockbrokers and cash deposits, will be your route to

On the other hand, if you are younger and financially secure, you can afford to be a little more aggressive in your approach. Including shares of some smaller companies in your portfolio may therefore appeal, as they have the potential for spectacular growth. However, a higher proportion sink without trace. If the thought of suffering a loss will cause you sleepless nights, this route is certainly not for you. Instead you should be thinking of a few shares which are "growth stocks", which means they will hopefully steadily increase in value over time, as well as some more pedestrian in-

vestments to act as a cushion. However, whether your aim is income, spectacular growth or more reliable appreciation in the value of your shares, there is one golden rule - spread your risk. Do not set yourself up as a hostage to fortune by just relying on the performance of one or two shares. Opinions differ as to the ideal number of companies in which a private investor should hold shares. Some say 10, others as many as 20. ProShare's chief executive, Gill Nott, says: "As a very general rule, you should aim to have the shares of at least six different companies in your portfolio at any one time."

Spreading the risk by holding shares in, say, six banks or six retailers is not the answer, however. Ms Nott's advice is clear. "It is wise to huy shares in a number of different companies in different sectors of the market, so that if one share or sector performs badly, this will be balanced by the performance of your other investments." lo other words, consider selecting one share from six different sectors.

Given that the recommended minimum shareholding is £2,000, so as to absorb the huying and selling costs, how does the newcomer to the stock market with limited funds start? One solution is to begin by investing in a unit trust before investing directly in shares. This will create an instant portfolio. While more funds are being accumulated, make some imaginary investments and follow their progress to test

John Andrew

"Choosing the Right Investment for You" is ProShare Investor Update No 2. Send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to ProShare, 13-

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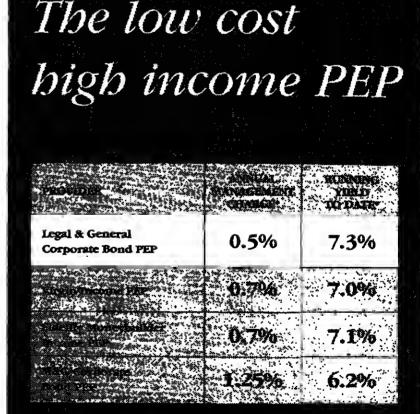
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| PEP 270 1 2 3 4 5  | IF NO, when do you think you are likely to take out a mortgage?  |  | 150 Yes 1 No 2  |  | Pessesi sas in plans w   |
| How do you contribute to your savings, by paying in a slump sum or regular monthly payments?       |  | Next 6 months so 1 25-36 months 4 7-12 months 2 Further in the future 5                | Please could you tick the box which is nearest to your  |  |  |
| Ourish setti or referrer morrorth between  | Next 6 month 43) 1 Further on in the future 5<br>7-12 months 2 Never 6                                     | 13-24 months a Never 6<br>Don't know 7   | gross annual personal income?   |  | Record   |
| Lump sum 280 1 Both s  | 13-24 months a Don't know 7<br>25-36 months 4  |  | £0.£4,999 17) 1 £30,000-£39,999 6<br>£5,000-£9,999 2 £40,000-£49,999 7                                  | · ·  | ĺ  |
| Regular monthly payments 2 None 4  | • • • •  | 34 If you already have a personal pension plan, what made you initially take it out?   | £10,000-£14,999 2 £50,000-£59,999 8   |  | 787-   |
| STOCKS & SHARES  | 20 How well-informed do you consider yourself to be about mortgages?                                       | Advertisement 50 1   | £15,000-£24,999 4 £60,000-£69,999 9<br>£25,000-£29,999 5 £70,000+ 0                                     |  |  |
| <b>9</b> Do you own any stocks and/or shares?  | Very well informed 40 1  | Sought advice from IFA 2   | Please could you tick the box which is nearest to your  |  | : 1  |
| Yes 291 1 No (go to question 12) 2   | Quite well informed I know enough  | Other 3  | gross annual household income?  | -  | Sing E-  |
| 1 OWhat type of company have you invested in?  | Not well informed  | 35 If you already have a pension plan, do you make additional voluntary contributions? | £0-£4,999 181 £30,000-£39,999 6   |  | Layer  |
| LU(please tick all that apply)   | Not at all informed 5  | Yes 660 1 No 2   | £5,000-£9,999 2 £40,000-£49,999 7<br>£10,000-£14,999 2 £50,000-£59,999 8                                |  | 47   |
| Blue chip 30 1<br>FTSE Top 100 2   | 21 Have you protected payments on your mortgage?   |  | £15,000-£24,999 4 £60,000-£69,999 9   |  | 127 1 2mg  |
| Smaller company 3  | V  | 36Which of the following pension providers are you aware of?                           | \$25,000-\$29,999 5 \$70,000+ 0   |  | Service Control  |
| Pennyshare 4   | Yes 45) 1 No 2   | Legal & General 060 1  | Residential Area London 19 1 South East 2 South West 2  |  | - L  |
| How often do you usually buy or sell stocks and shares?  | 22Are you happy with the type of mortgage you now 2have?   | Virgin Direct 2 • Merchant Investors 3   | East Anglia 4 Wales 5 Midlands 6  |  | A STATE OF THE STA |
| Every month 311 1 24+ months 3   | Yes 460 1 No 2   | Equitable Life 4   | North West 7 North 3 Scotland 9<br>N Ireland 20 1 Eire 2 Abroad 3                                       |  | 11.0   |
| 1-6 months   |  | Scottish Widows  | Which of these best describes the highest qualification   |  | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  |
| 7 -12 months 3<br>13-24 months 4   | IF NOT, why not?   | Marks & Spencer 5 Direct Life Pensions 7   | you have obtained up until now?   |  | 357  |
| PEPS, INVESTMENT TRUSTS  |  | Eagle Star 3 Other 9   | Higher degree 21) 1   | -  | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  |
| & UNIT TRUSTS  |  |  | Professional qualification of degree status 2 First degree 2  |  | 4  |
| 12Which of the following PEP, investment trust or unit trust providers are you aware of?           | 2 What is the total size of the mortgage on your   | PRIVATE HEALTH.  37Do you have a private health scheme?                                | HNC or HND One or more A levels (or equivalent)   |  | 300  |
|  | 40 property?   | Yes 171 1 No 2   | O levels/CSE/GCSE passes  |  | 372  |
| Jupiter Perpetual  | up to £20,000 to 1 £80,000-£94,999 6<br>£20,000-£34,999 2 £95,000-£104,999 7                               |  | Family status (please tick all that apply)  | 1  | 74   |
| Guinness Flight Virgin Direct  | £35,000-£49,999 3 £105,000-£119,999 8 £50,000-£64,999 4 £120,000-£139,999 9                                | IF YES, is it a company policy or a personal policy?                                   | Young children  | . 1  | *  |
| Schroders 5  | £65,000-£79,999 5 £140,000+ a  | Company policy and 1 Personal policy 2   | Mature dependent children Mature independent children   |  | a<br><b>b</b>  |
| GT Global Framlington  | 24 How long have you had the mortgage?   |  | No children 4   |  | a.   |
| Foreign and Colonial   | Less than 12 months 80 1   | How aware are you of the products offered by these companies?                          | How many children are you currently supporting  |  | #1 and the second secon |
| Martin Currie 380 1  | 1-2 years 3-5 years  | BUPA · 2   | through university or college?  |  |  |
| Hendersons 2 Friends Provident 3   | 6-10 years   | Norwich Union 3<br>Zurich 4  | t 1 2 8+  |  |  |
| Any other 4  | 11-15 years  | Prime Health 5   | Marital status<br>Single  |  | Est.   |
| 13 How were you made aware of these providers?   | 25Who is it with?  | NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS  | Married Divorced/separated/widowed  |  | 1.45   |
| Newspaper Professional magazines   | 40   | How often do you read the personal finance pages of national Saturday newspapers?      |   |  | ling to  |
| Posters 3  | GC How did you arrange it?   | Almost always - 701 1  |   |  | 4 mg.  |
| IFA's  | 26 How did you arrange it?   | Quite often 2 Only occasionally 3  | Thank You   |  | <b>∂</b> ₹<br>3∎   |
| 14What attracted you to the PEP, investment trust or unit trust which you hold?                    | Building Society 53 1<br>Bank 2  | Never 4  |   |  | 9. P.C.  |
| Advertisements :50 1   | IFA Mortgage Broker  | 40Where else do you seek advice?   | Would you be prepared to help us with any further research in the future?                               | \ <del>\</del>                               | and the same of th |
| Word of mouth  | 5li  | IFA . 70 1   | Yes No  |  | · ·  |
| IFA<br>Can't remember  | Do you intend increasing your mortgage on your<br>Courrent home or moving house in the next 12             | Bank 2<br>Building Society 3   | Name:   |  | 446  |
| Have you been the recipient of any windfall  | months?  | The Saturday Independent 4   | Address:  |  |  |
| Dmonies?   | Increasing my mortgage on my current home 554  | Other newspapers 5 Priends 6   | Postcode:   | <b>₽</b> 4                                   | A RECEIVED   |
| Yes 36) 1 No 2   | Moving house<br>None of these  | Other 7  | Evening Telephone Number  |  |  |
|  | ***  |  | <b>79) 1</b>  |  | TANA<br>Ana  |

## Should I stay or should I go to another plan?

What is your best course of action if you take out a personal pension and then stop paying the premiums? John Chapman finds some answers in the conclusion of a two-part analysis.

Hundreds of thousands of people take out personal pensions with good intentions then stop paying their premiums for a variety of reasons perhaps because they lose their job, move to a company with an occupational pension scheme, start a family or bave other priorities.

Company of the second s

If you are one of these people, you have a problem. You will probably find most of the premiums you have paid in the first few years have been swallowed up by "front-end" charges and you will oot get value for money from the pension plan.

So what do you do with the contributions you have made? You cannot cash them in. Your pension company should, however, tell you the transfer value and the paid-up value for your contributions.

The transfer value is the amount of cash it would allow you to transfer into another pension scheme or plan elsewhere. The paid-up value is the amount credited to you should you leave your funds within your plan. The paid-up value will then increase with the company's subsequeot investment performance minus the annual management charges, which together would determine the eventual value of the policy when it matures.

If you stop cootributing to your personal pension because you go to work for a company with an occupational pensions scheme, you could witch your transfer value into it. Whether that is actually sensible will depend on several factors, including the cooditions of entry, effects of employer's contributions and the charges within the company scheme. These factors will require specific examination.

For many people, the choice will be between transferring to another pensioo plan or staying put. Most companies pitch their transfer values at the same levels as their paid-up values. A few will be substantial but many will be low. Whatever the size of the transfer values, what matters now are the likely returns should you keep your lump sum with the same plan or opt for a transfer. Those prospective returns will depend on a combination of the investment performance and the various charges imposed. No one can tell which company will perform best over the next 15 or 30 years, so charges must be the main basis for comparison.

Your transfer value lump sum can be invested as a single-premium pension plan in another company or even in your present company. You will want to choose a company with low charges. Making the standard assumption of 9 per cent a year investment growth, several companies, including Equitable Life, General Accident, Halifax, Legal & General, National Mutual, Norwich Union. Scottish Amicable and Scottish Widows, project growth net of charges of 8.1 per cent a year or more for single-premium plans over 25 or 30 years.

Should you transfer to such low

charge plans? That depends on the projected growth of a paid-up plan with your present company. Uotil this month paid-up values were a grey area. But an initiative by Alan Lakey of Highclere Financial Services has achieved a breakthrough. His survey has enabled me to make the comparisons in the table. For example, Alliance & Leicester shows a transfer value and a paid-up value after two years both at £4,862. The paid-up value would rise to £40,708 at maturity, implying a growth rate of 7.9 per cent. If instead the transfer value was invested in a plan with projected growth of 8.1 per cent, the new maturity value would be £43,046, an increase of 6 per cent. pears best. Indeed gains of 52 per



Hard one to call: People who stop making payments into their pension plan will have to decide whether to transfer or stay put. Making the wrong decision can be costly

from transfers from the companies in the first group, the prospective gain is not remarkable.

Transfers from companies in the second group suggest much larger rewards. An Allied Dunbar planholder would be offered a very disappointing £1.645 after two years, rising to only £7,348 if left to maturity after a growth of only 5.5 per cent a year. A transfer to a plan with 8.1 per cent growth would project a maturity value 98 per ceot higher. Increases of about 50 per cent are indicated by transferring away from Eagle Star, Lincoln and Scottish Mutual, and increases of 20-30 per cent by transferring away from several other companies.

A third group of companies offers paid-up values greater than the transfer values. But do not be misled. Where there are striking differences there are also extraordinary charges oo the paid-up values. The growth rates on J Rothschild, Skandia and Sun Life plans would only be 3 or 4 per cent a year. In nine out of the 14 cases the transfer route ap-Like other increases obtainable cent and 74 per cent are indicated

by taking the low transfer values of Skandia and Sun Life, rather than paid-up values as much as double the transfer values.

Differences in projected returns from transfer and paid-up values also arise at later stages of plans, but these are not so large as those arising in the very early stages.

What lies behind the differences - not only in the levels of transfer and paid-up values, but also in the charges on them? First, companies have very different expenses and their charges differ accordingly. Secood, companies may prefer to load charges on to paid-up values because until oow they have not attracted the interest of the regulators or the media. Third, some companies have deceptive charges called capital units and capital levies, which bear particularly hard on

early paid-up values. More light oeeds to thrown on the levels and treatment of paid-up values. It is astonishing that it has taken so long to recognise their importance. But at least the morky world of personal pensions is getting a bit clearer.

### Windfall shareholders buck the downward trend

The seven weeks since the stock market peaked has been a testing time for Britain's 10 million newest shareholders, those who picked up windfall shares in the five mutuals that have converted into quoted companies this year.

The 100 top shares in the UK have fallen by an average 8.7 per cent since the all-time peak ou 3 October and prices are still bouncing around like

But windfall shares have actually bucked the trend in recent weeks. All five companies, Halifax Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Northern Rock and Norwich Union, with recent windfall shares in issue, outperformed the index over the past seven weeks.

Norwich Union and Northem Rock are worth more than they were at the top of the market, and the other three are down only 3 to 4 per ceut, half the market average.

Amanda Davidson, an independent financial adviser, said: "We have certainly been advising clieots to hang oo to their windfall shares, so I'm delighted that is borne out by the performance we've got here. It does show that people with windfall shares should think twice before selling them to go Christmas shopping."

Before drawing any conclusions from this, however, we should note a few caveats. First, we have measured the progress of windfall shares only over seven weeks, far too short a period to draw any firm conclusions. Second, the windfall index measures the performance of only five shares, all in the financial sector, which is not representative of the stock

market as a whole. But look a little further and the performance of our windfalls looks even better.

The 105 stocks in the financial sector are still, on average, 12 per cent below the peak last month, the 11 retail banks have fallen by more than one-sixth and the eight companies in the life assurance sector are down, on average, by about 1 per ceot.

Ms Davidson said: "A lot of people who've got windfall shares are coming into the stock market for the first time. and they will find it terribly eocouraging to see that their shares have done well. They've all, individually, done better than the FTSE 100."

Matthew Orr, of stockbrokers Killick & Co, believes one explanation for windfall shares climbing while others fall may be that institutions, such as pension funds, are still short of

windfall shares in their portfolios. If this is the case, you would expect the institutions to become buyers when windfall shares weaken, immediately helping their price to bounce

Many investors also think their recent conversion to plc status makes all five companies candidates for merger and takeover activity in the sector.

Norwich Union is frequently mentioned as a tempting target for a bank to buy, and a far more profitable investment than those poorly performing iovestmeot banking subsidiaries. Norwich Union is also wide open for a hostile takeover bid, unlike the newly converted building societies.

They are protected from hostile takeovers for the first five years as public companies provided they themselves do not go on the acquisitioo trail.

It does not mean they would not look for a friendly merger if times get tough, which may be why Northern Rock shares are also resisting the downward trend.

These teotative results also underline the point that the companies which have issued windfall shares so far are generally viewed as sound invest-

-- Paul Slade

#### BARGAIN BASEMENT

Cheltenham & Gloucester has raised its standard variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.7 per cent and the rate on its instant transfer account by the same amount to 7.25 per cent gross. It has also launched a new series of mortgages with rates fixed for two, three or five years. Cootact branches.

Canada Life is launching a new income bond with a growth option. The bood guarantees

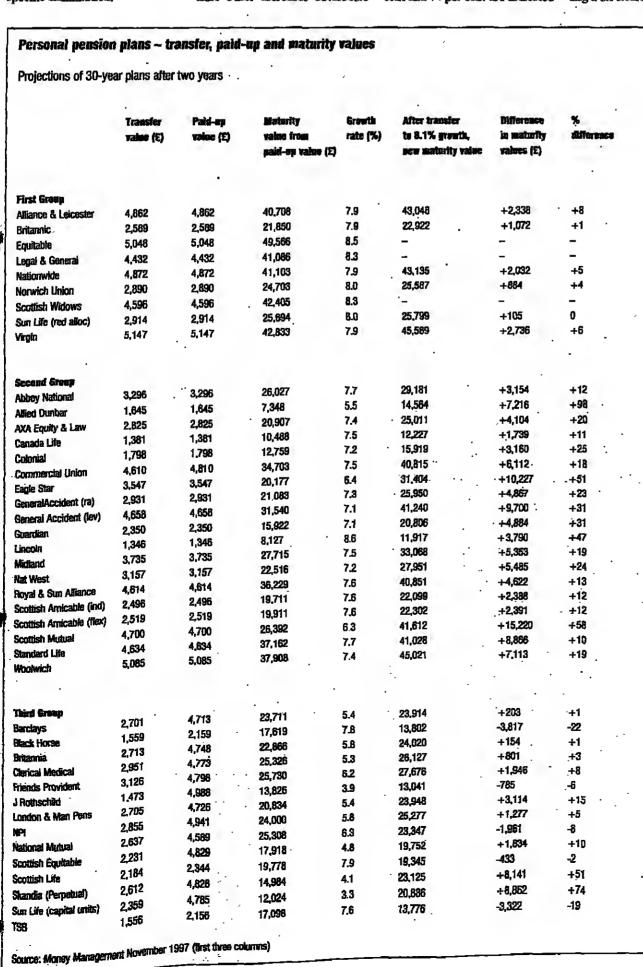
sures a certain level of income in year one. Income in years two to five is linked to movements in interest base rates plus bonuses each year the FISE 100 index increases by at least 5 per ceot.Minimum investment is £5,000. The bond is available through independent financial advisers.

John Charcol Insurance Brokers has reduced the rates on its accident, sickness and unthe capital will be returned at employment insurance prodthe end of five years, and en. ucts by almost 20 per cent. per cent. Call 0500 111200.

Benefits can be extended to include income protection. Call 0800 939393.

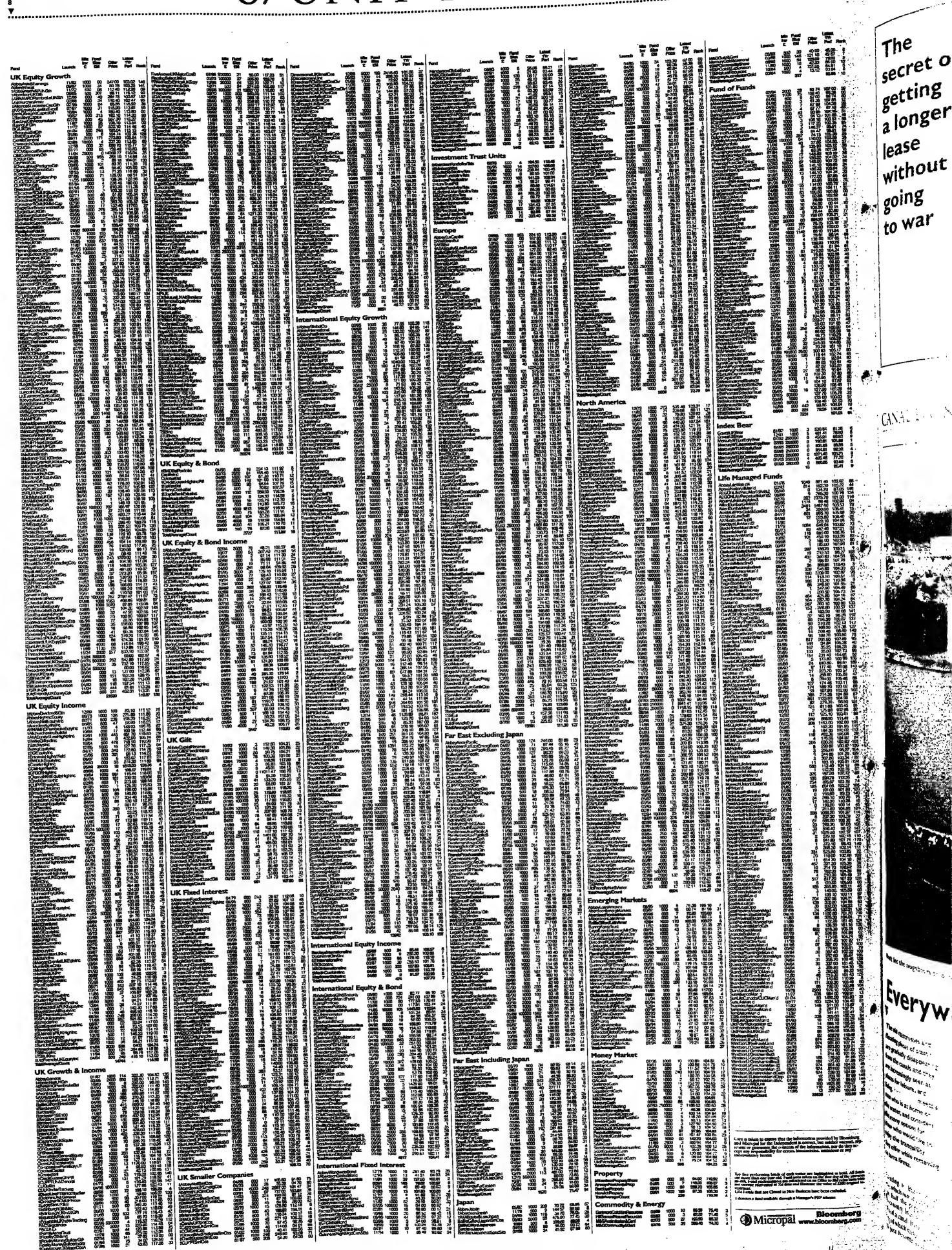
Nationwide Building Society will refund the legal fees for customers who are remortgagiog with the society from other lenders. Contact branches.

Legal & General has increased the interest rates paid on its 60day notice account and its instant access account. New rates range from 7.15 per cent to 7.75





## 8/UNIT TRUSTS



لفكذا من الأحل

### The secret of getting a longer lease without going to war

Tenants can now buy freeholds and extend leases, provided they have patience as well as cash. But it is not a simple process. A generation ago many properties fell into disrepair because tenants could not buy short leases and landlords were unwilling to spend money on essential

maintenance. England's archaic leasehold law was reformed in 1993. Then the new law itself needed to be reformed. And still, Robert Liebman says, more tinkering may be needed.

Short leases have received a new lease on life thanks to the Leasehuld Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1993 and latcr amendments which allow many tenants to extend their leases by 90 years. Alternatively, qualifying tenants can communally huy their freehold outright.

But these rights come neither cheaply nor easily. Tenants must compensate landlords for lost value, and also pay the landlord's as well as their own legal and professional hills.

Cheap it isn't, but tenants obtain properties which are more valuable and mure sellable. Their costs are also commensurate with the increased value that they en-

Although a tenant cannot be forced cither to seek enfranchisement or a lease extension, no flatowner or flat-huyer should he indifferent to the workings of this law. Even a tenant perfectly content with his lot and his lease can suddenly find himself in a war zone. Complete insulation against a war between neighbours and landlord is not always feasible.

Especially concerning lease extensions, many landlords and tenants come to terms quickly and amically. Occasionally, they agree to their own variation on the basic law-a lease extended for more than 90 years, for example, but with a substantial rather than a peppercorn (nominal) ground rent.

But some landlords resent the new law and resist it strenuously. instead of good-faith negotiations and compromise, disagreement abounds. The Leasehold Valuation Trihunal, which cannot award costs, is excellent at concentrating

minute. Some disputes go the brutal distance, to the dreaded Lands

Tribunal. Landlords fight their corner with all of the privileges the law allows, which are many. Hapless tenants can pay well over the odds in more ways than one.

Four clderly tenants in Sussex had very long leases but also a landlord who imposed steep service charges and otherwise made their lives miscrable. They won their enfranchisement case but the landlord appealed and then went bust. Their costs, no longer recoverable, totalled some £20,000.

In a lease extension case in Harrow, north-west London, two couples had virtually identical flats each with 41-year leases and each with essentially the same values. The landlord appealed to the Lands Tribunal and, fearful of additional costs, one of the couples no longer argued their case. The other couple actively fought on and, despite their similar positions, ended up paying many thousands more than the couple who with-

The stakes in central London can be even higher. "London is owned by half a dozen big landlords," says Simon Marr-Johnson, minds, and many bitter disputes are a chartered surveyor with the Lonsuddenly resolved at the last don firm of Marr-Johnson &

Stevens. "In addition, to flats, offices and shops, it owns large areas of leasehold houses. particularly in Belgravia and South

In the eyes of the law, a house is not always a house. A 1996 Belgravia case involved two adjacent mews cottages, each with a garage on a separate short lease so located in the premises that each property could legally constitute not a "house" but a "flat".

The owners sought lease extensions as a block of two flats," says Joan South of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association. After a two-day hearing that stretched to five days, the price was settled but tenants had to pay costs greater than £40,000. The tenants foot the bill so the landlords hire the top QCs." The steep fees then deter other tenants from seeking enfranchisements.

Laymen can forgive themselves for feeling baffled by an area of law so complex and quirky as to baffle more than a few solicitors.

To enfranchise a property itself along with a certain proportion of tenants must qualify. Enfranchisement is not allowed in a conversion of four or fewer flats, in one of which the freehulder or an adult family member has been living for the past year. However, ten-

ants in such properties can extend their leases.

Weigh domestic realities against legal rights, Mrs South cauions. "If only two of three occupier-owners in a conversion agree to enfranchise, the two become the landlord over the third. If the third then applies for a lease ex-

Some landlords resent the new law and resist it strenuously. Instead of good-faith negotiations and compromise, disagreement abounds

tension, they can make life hell for him by delaying." The situation is certainly ripe for conflict.

Some costs may be hidden. The costs depend on the number of interests. There will be one freeholder, but there may be various intermediale leases, and the tenant would have to serve notices on all interests," says Richard Berns, senior partner with Piper Smith & Basham, a London firm

of solicitors. And once you are in, you cannot simply drop out and wash your hands of the matter. Tenants must still pay the fees incurred by the andlord to that point.

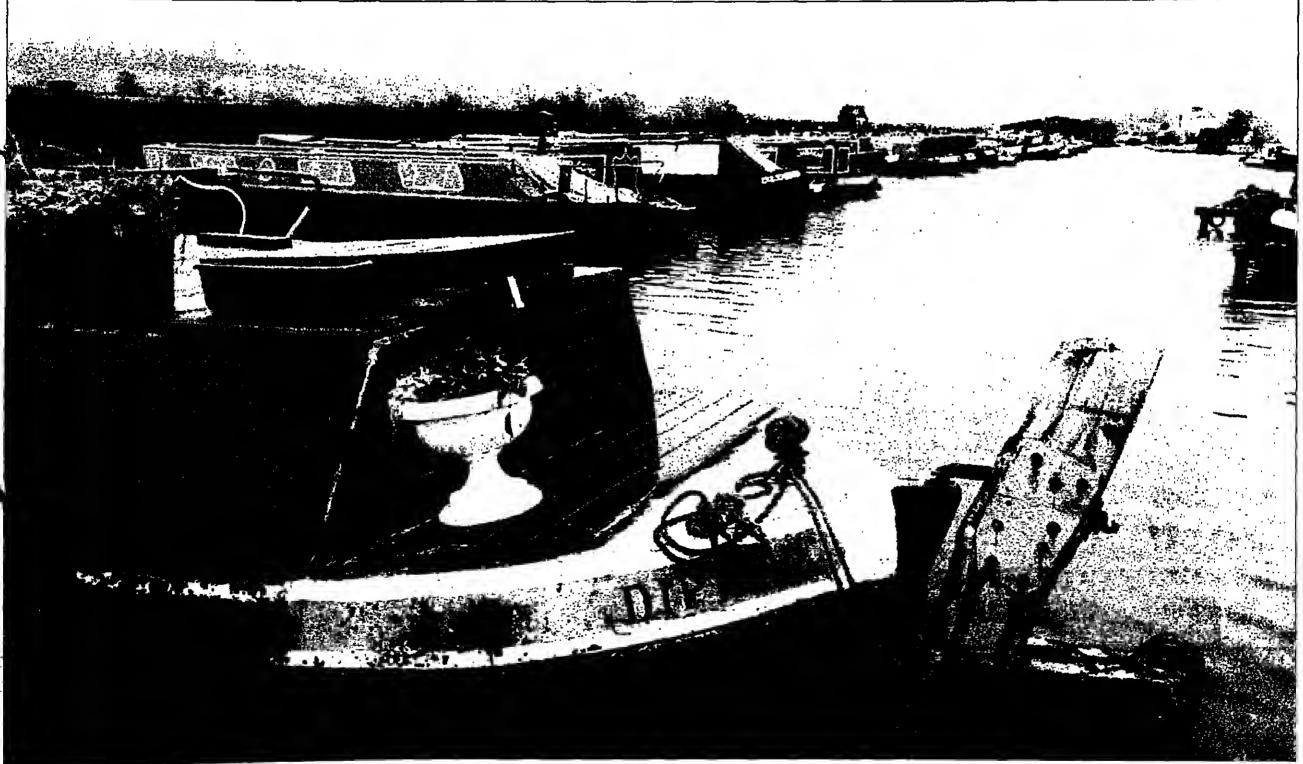
Fortunately, traumatic outcomes are relatively rare, and tenants can benefit, for example, from transferable residency qualifications. "Instead of waiting three years, the seller can serve a notice on the landlord and get it

signed to you," Mr Berns says. Costs are pretty much in line with property values, whether that property be in Brixton or Belgravia. Information about the other occupiers and the landlord of a premises is self-evidently vital. And, as always, attention must be paid to location.

Mr Marr-Johnson encounters reputable as well as pugnacious landlords in central London, hut also some unscrupulous landlords who have been buying freehold hlocks in the suhurbs, behaving harshly towards the lessees and hence forcing up the cost of the freehold to them".

Mrs Joan Smith, Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, 10 Upper Phillimore Gardens, London W8 7HB; Marr-Johnson & Stevens, 15 Bolton Street, London WIY 7PA. 0171 499 3199; Piper Smith & Basham, 31 Warwick Square, London SWIV 24F. 0171 828 8685.

### CANAL LIVING



Don't let the neighbours drop in: Steve Day's barge on the Grand Union Canal at Berkhamsted

Photograph: John Lawrence

## Everywhere, the newcomers are flooding in

The old mattresses and floating pieces of plastic are gradually disappearing from the canals and they are increasingly seen as places for leisure, and living. Penny Jackson meets a man who is at home on the water, and considers the many options for those who would like to enjoy the tranquillity they offer while remaining on terra firma.

According to British Waterways, which runs the canal system, half the population of is country lives within five miles of a canal. If that is something of which many of us have only just become aware, it is

probably because canals are at the heart of recent urban regeneration. Until now, the canal corri-

dors that ran through the redundant and neglected industrial areas were generally seen only by those in boats. But with the trend for transforming factory, warehouses and mills into fashionable homes has come an appreciation of the canals themselves has been kindled along.

For some, the discovery that they have a special feel, quite different from rivers, is nothing new. Steve Day, an electronics engineer, not satisfied with having always lived alongside canals, has taken to life on the water. His home is a 40ft steel narrowboat on the Grand Union Canal near Berkhamsted and when he is not working

- at present in a local boatyard - he is travelling through the country's vast system of waterways. "I even bumped into my parents once in Manchester. I turned round a corner and

there they were." Abrupt changes of scenery are one of the great charms of canals. One moment countryside, the next a sweep of warehouses. In the past five years, Steve Day has seen big changes. "The development is a mixed hag. Many of the huildings, barges, leggers' huts and lock-keepers' cottages have been done up well, but there are still some sad old places, tucked

His greatest concern is that the canals are changing from oases of calm to husy, overregulated waterways, where there are even suggestions of

speed guns being introduced. "Too many people fly up and down without any respect for safety or the environment," he

While leisure activities have obviously revitalised many canals, British Waterways, a government body, is charged with the responsibility of encouraging their use and development while preserving their character and has to be consulted on all planning appli-Like Inland Waterways, a

voluntary association which has fought long and hard for the survival of canals, it sees one of the higgest threats to the diversity of the canal system coming from a tendency of developers to adopt a common standard. Unique features can

of stone, brick and cast iron and if it becomes impossible to tell whether you are in Scotland or Staffordshire, something irreplaceable has been lost.

Charles Khoo, an architect, responsible for Baldwin Terrace on Regent's Canal in Islington, believes there is enough freedom for imaginative design within the original façade. Large industrial windows means that you can make the most of views of the water without losing the detail." Indeed, since most canal-side facades are protected it is often more a case of keeping tabs on the scale and sensitivity of new schemes.

One of the most successful of those, it is agreed by even the most ardent conservationists, is

to the regeneration of a once. £30,000. A home in a convertdismal area that is now thriving and fashionable, with restaurants, bars, shops and business along the waterside. Crosby Homes's popular Symphony Court development of 143 homes, in Brindley Place,

sold in year. Out of town, the old lockkeepers' cottages are always in demand. Clive Mosson of Aitchisons in Berkhamsted finds they do not become available very often, and can be small, although, of course, they usually have rural views.

The Victorian villas in the centre of Berkhamsted with gardens that run down to the canal would start at about £169,000 for one with three bedrooms, rising to £235,000 for in the centre of Birmingham. Its a larger house. Moorings add get lost under uniform designs maze of canals lent themselves a premium of around £20,000-

ed mill on the outskirts of the town is on the market for around £225,000. In Derbyshire, a converted grain store in the Shardlow Wharf conservation area is for sale, through Savills, for £195,000.

There are few large properties on canals, even if images of grand houses in London's Little Venice do spring to mind. A large Georgian house that is about to come on to Aitchison's books predated the canal, and since it is sandwiched hetween the railway line and waterway was clearly an obstacle in the path of the two early transport links. Canal-side dwellers must also accept that pedestrian traffic along the towpaths comes

with the view of the water. David Fickling, a children's book editor, who has recently

moved into Berkeley Homes' development on Oxford Canal at Port Meadow, relishes the idea of a working canal. "I look at the old iron foundry and like the thought that perhaps manhole covers were being made and sent off to the empire. If vou are interested in industrial archaeology and history, canals are a wonderful place." Nor does he object to intrusive sounds. "One of the nicest things during the summer was the music from a passing harge.

And as for the nearby railway line, "the sound of the train is brilliant, if rather loud at three in the morning".

Aitchisons: 01442 862533; Savills 0115 955 1122; Berkeley Homes, Oxford Waterside: 01865

AT HOME/ STORING WINE...

### Don't lose your bottle

Some people keep thousands; some have a few singles. Rosalind Russell samples the best ways to keep wine, even if it will be gone in a few hours.

So where do you keep yours bottled up? Under the stairs? In the kitchen? The garage is a popular stash, especially before Christmas when space is at a premium. Imbibers with no temperature-controlled cellar to call their own have to make do with what they have, even if the experts say all three choices are probably the worst you could make. The first two are usually too warm and the last suffers from extremes of temperature, summer and winter.

"However," adds Robin Davis, of the London wine merchant Swig, "most wine bought is consumed within eight hours, so it hardly matters. It looks very attractive in a wine years, it's an investment." rack in the kitchen. Many people buy wine to drink within a month and it won't come to Kaempfert, and her husband, much harm in that time. The main thing to avoid is massive fluctuations in temperature. lar built under the conservatory It's said the ideal temperature for wine is 55F, or 13C."

Serious but impoverished wine buffs who cannot afford to grets when the house was sold. build a wine cellar (which can cost £5,000) do, Davis says, have another option.

We use a chap who can build a closet in a spare room, his former home in Wiltshire. with wine racks and humidifier, professionally insulated, more inclined to turn Down Unfor around £500 depending on size. It will be quite small children, rather than a cellar full

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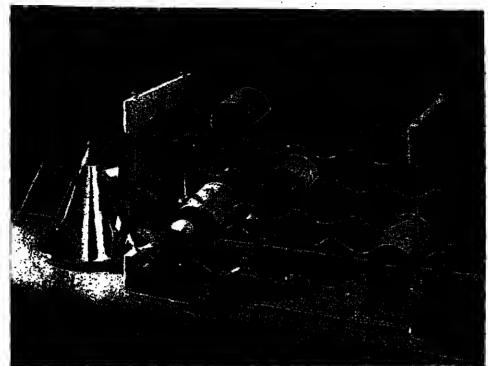
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Tenants

RATES



Marion Kaempfert, daughthe Danish jazz composer Allan Botchinsky, had a wine celof their house in St John's Wood, London. Leaving it behind was one of their biggest re-

Max Robertson, the voice of radio tennis until his retirement, built a wine cellar to hold between 3,000 and 4,000 bottles at

Most people, however, are der into a soundproof den for staying in the house for five with a lot of cellars is that peo-

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GLOUCESTER AVENUE, REGENTS PARE, NW1 £460p Luxury two bedroom flat, varnished wood floors, furnished to a high standard, security videocom entry phone close to public transport and all other amenities. Available now.

ple found it convenient to put of the smartest wine racks, intheir oil fired boilers in there ter of the late band leader Bert when central heating was installed," says Colin Swait, an estate agent with Hamptons. "It can ruin cellars for wine."

> The Swaits, who when they moved into their home in found the cellar full of hundreds of empty champagne bottles, turned it into a kitchen. For the rest of us, just storing a case or two is the norm, and a wine rack is the answer.

There is no need to buy the old pine stick-and-peg self-assembly racks, a hangover from the Seventies. Furnishing designers have come up with some corkers. Ocean, the mail order chrome, wall-mounted rack but if you're going to be of Jacob's Creek. "The trouble firm selling kitchenware, gifts, holds eight bottles and sells for lighting and furniture, bas some

cluding a wall-mounted "Wave" hanging rack made of beechwood, steamed to bend it into shape and held together with steel rivets. It holds eight bottles and costs £44.95. A beechwood standing rack, holding a

dozen bottles is £54.95. Ocean's leather-strap hanging rack, inspired by a barber's shaving strap, will hold six bottles and costs £59, and a free-standing chromed stainless steel rack, holding 16 bottles, is £59.95. A 16-bottle chrome-plated

rack from Presents Direct, a mail order company, is slightly cheaper at £55. Swig's elegant

If you would rather spend the money on the wine rather than the rack, Homebase does a more modestly priced rack, bolding 15 bottles, for £19.99. The Della Piazza is modular, two feet high and made of rubberwood and chrome.

Protect and imbibe: One

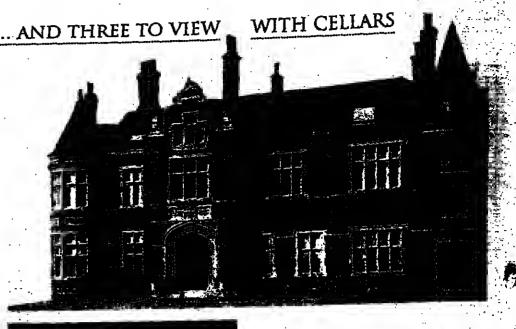
in chrome, from RTA

Wine Rack

of the new-look wine racks

Jasper Morrison, known for his elegant fluid furniture, has designed a wine rack to hold six bottles, featuring strong plastic in bright green, blue, yellow or opaque white and costing £21.50, available from Purves and Purves,

Swig 0171 431 4412 Ocean 0800 132 985 Presents Direct 0171 371 7017 Homebase (for stockists) 0645 801 800 Purves and Purves 0171 580 8223

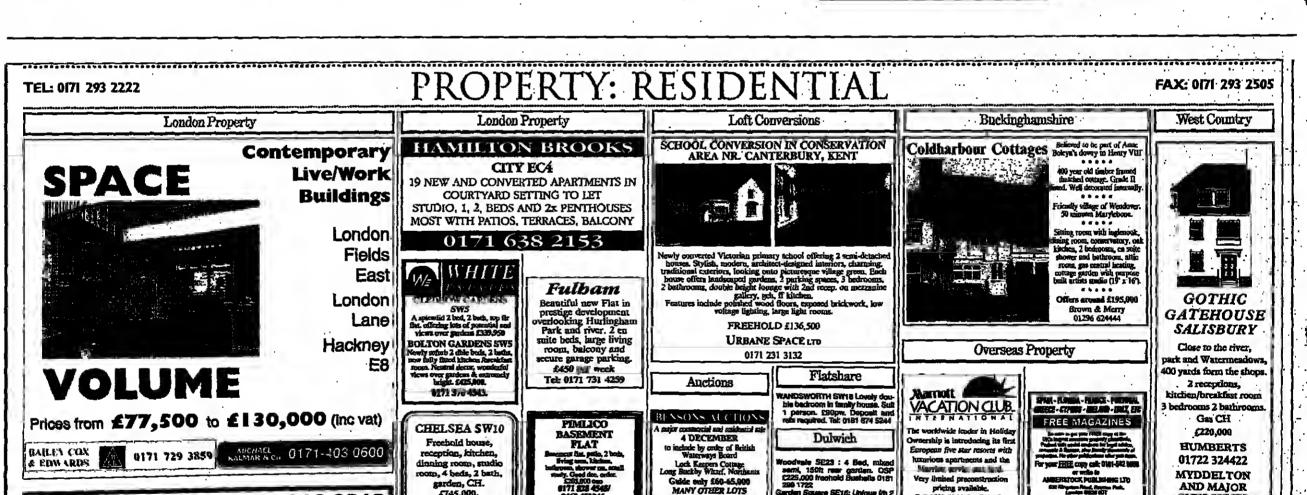




Dene Hall, in Dene Park near Tonbridge in Kent, above, was converted into apartments six years ago. The one for sale now has the original entrance and reception rooms, along with a 23st wine cellar. The three-bedroom apartment, with open fireplaces, woodstrip flooring and decorative friezes, also has a sports room and two garages. The communal grounds include a hard tennis court. £650,000 through Knight Frank (0171 629

Rosslyn Tower in Putney, south west London, left, is a double-fronted Grade II listed Victorian house with a steeple tower on the top and a wine cellar. The eight-bedroom house has a library, housekeeper's room and a music room with 15ft high ceilings. The drawing room was redesigned by Leonard Wyburd RA, who launched Liberty's furnishing and decoration studio. The garden has a lily pond, fountain and rose garden. Knight Frank is asking £1.25m (0171 629 8171).

The Old Parsonage at Higham, Suffolk, is Grade II listed and has a cellar with two storage areas, one with bins. The five-bedroom house, with two receptions rooms, study and 14ft kitchen, has another store room on the first floor. Stone mullioned windows give views towards the church. There is a coach house - used a hay store, with two good loft rooms above - and tack room. The property has more than three acres of grounds and paddock. £395,000 through Bidwells (01284 767338).



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PENNY JACKSON

### SELLING PRIVATELY

### How to get them knocking at your door - minus the estate agent

Ever thought about cutting out the estate agent's commission and selling your own home? It is possible, Fiona Brandhorst finds, but beware - there are as many pitfalls as there are advantages for the novice.

When Pam Price decided to put her house on the market back in July she had no idea what it would be worth. Not only was she pleasantly surprised by the local estate agent's valuation but she was also not prepared for his optimism at being able to "sell it in a week".

Not one to turn down a challenge, Mrs Price decided to have a go at selling her house herself - if the house was that saleable she could save herself over £2,000 in commission and she felt she would be more in control. She chose to advertise in Loot, the free ads paper, which cost around £60 for a nineweek slot and included a sale board outside the property in a leafy street in Bromley, Keot.

rang that I was only interested in serious buyers and I felt I could vet them more than an estate agent. I didn't want people who were just oul for a ride oo a Saturday afternoon." Viewing times were civilised. "I wasn't pressurised by anyone if I knew my house was tidy I was happy, if not, I gave myself a cou-

viewings later though, Mrs Price still hadn't had an offer and the ninth week was almost up. Theo on the selling some years ago fell foul of day she reluctantly instructed an agent, who claimed to have three he drolly described the house he was serious buyers on his books, she had selling as having a funeral-like partwo offers from Loot readers. "The people the agent sent round didn't stairs. The local newspaper refused even have their properties on the to run the advertisement. market," she says.

Negotiations with the Loot huyers were held at different times over and was surprised at the number of coffee. "I enjoyed the personal contact and could judge their intentions more than I would have been able to if the agent had been in charge. We agreed on a price just tial interest with a viewing. He evenunder the agent's suggested asking price."

Perhaps estate agents would argue that they could achieve more than the asking price, if there was Rudling turned to a local agent to more than one interested party, thus find a huyer. Three potential purcovering the fees a vendor would have to pay. Certainly Peter Blades, a partner in Barringtons estate Mr Rudling achieved a higher price agents in south Buckinghamshire. believes estate agents' experience within the market can't he beaten. We know the best price a property can command and how to get it."

Private sales are also more likebecome stressed and don't have a changes in case the sale falls

third person to act as a go-between. Mr Blades cites this as one of the higgest problems with private sales. The vendor and purchaser are open to misunderstandings; an agent can act as a buffer to smooth

things over."

Without an agent in the wings vendors may turn to their solicitor to seek advice. If so, Peter Sibley a legal executive of with Taylor Willcocks, sees potential problems, "It's not part of a solicitor's fee structure to enter into negotiations between the huyer and the seller."

Solicitors are also as defensive about legal hold-ups as estate agents are about commission charges. Mr Sibley suspects that most vendors and some estate agents do oot fully understand what's involved in conveyancing and can make unreasonable demands on solicitors.

He should know - he used to be an estate agent and is "emharrassed" by some of the things he expected to happen. He admits that, when the pressure's on to exchange and complete contracts, having an agent working for you can he helpful "If lenders require survey-"I made it obvious when people ors' reports on timber, damp or structural work, it's the estale agents - oot the solicitors - who have the time and contacts to get things done quickly."

Keith Rudling did not try the hard sell when he advertised his two Hertfordshire artisan cottages through his local paper last year. He opened the frool door to viewers ple of hours to clear up."

Twenty-five phone calls and 15

and said with the curtness of Victor Meldrew: "What you see is what you

> His first foray into DTY housethe law on misrepresentation when lour, dripping taps and broken

This time he advertised via a box number in the Hertfordshire Mercury people who bothered to write to him for the handwritten property details. However, he was puzzled that most inquirers did not follow up their initually sold one of the cottages to the writer of the first letter.

A trip abroad hastened the need to sell the second cottage, so Mr chasers came to nothing before the sale finally went through. Although with the agent, his solicitor charged him more for the extra work involved with the abortive sales.

Even in today's housing market where demand has outstripped supply for several months, the prily to fall apart when the two sides vate seller needs to keep abreast of

may have been a rising market three and the cost of re-advertising. For vendors going it alone, Loot has plenty of marketing advice in-

cluding the cautious use of the welcoming arounds of coffee and freshly baked cakes. Strangely, though, there's no mention of personal security. Stephen Smith from Bushells estate agents in south London is out an appointment, but I just told

through after several weeks. What staff and clients. "I was working nearby when the estate agent Suzi months previously can change due Lamplingh went missing so I'm to seasonal or other economic fac- constantly reminding my staff to be tors. Private sellers may find them- on their guard." The majority of selves with an overpriced property Bushells' viewings are accompanied by a member of staff and the firm will not arrange a visit without full details of the prospective purchas-

Pam Price often showed couples telephone numbers as a reference. "A couple of people knocked withconcerned about the safety of his them to go and buy Loot for the de-home:

skinned minority. "If you have an

DIY selling is only for the tough-

tails. They didn't come back."

Al house, in an Al position that's gorgeous throughout then you'll probably sell it yourself, but if it's anything other than that, you'll need an agent." But Pam Price would do it all again with one proviso. "My house sold quickly bearound on her own with just their cause the market was right. I'd think twice if the market was dead."

If you want to sell your own

 Research the market well and Peter Blades is confident that have your home valued professionally.

 Advertise to the people most likely to buy your property. • Instruct solicitors as soon as

you decide to sell. Find out about the huying and

selling process. • Keep a cool head when the pressure mounts.

Loot (0171-372 7262); Barringtons (01753 892100); Taylor Willcocks Solicitors (0171-498 2244); Bushells (0181-299 1722)



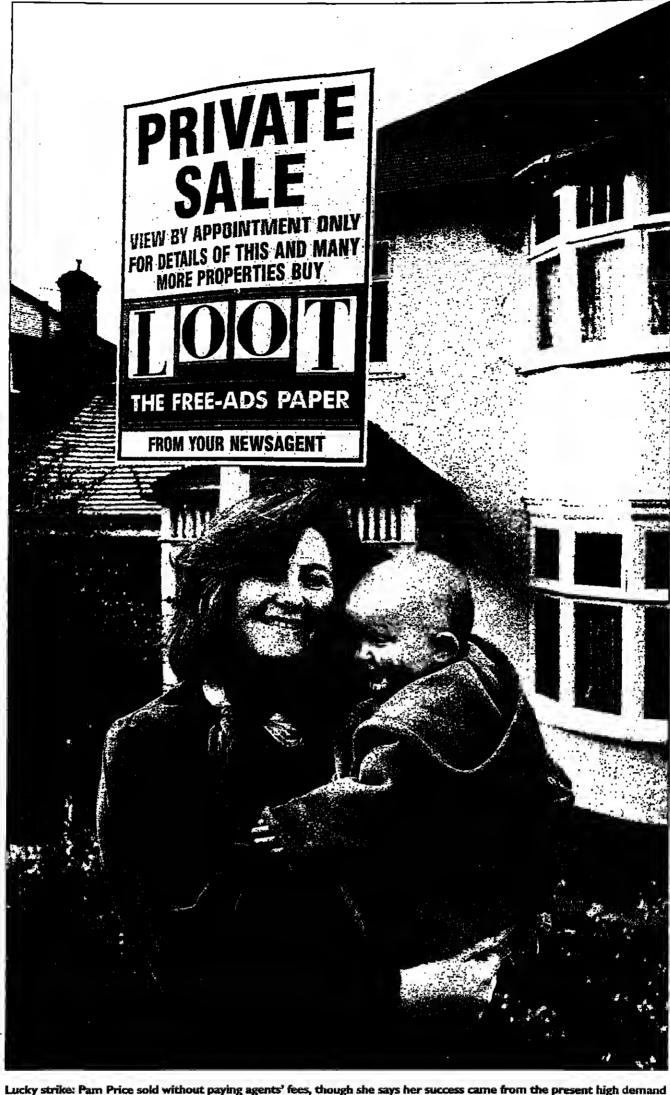
### **New estates** deserve a sporting chance

It isn't often that a passion for football is deployed to stir the collective conscience of the property world. But this week, Sir John Hall, entrepreneur and chairman of Newcastle United at least for a few weeks more treated all those who heard him deliver the annual Hampton Lecture to an unqualified endorsement of the value of sport in urban regeneration. Yet his own discovery of the passinns football inspires have led him to see the game as a tool for personal as much as regional revitalisation. Sir John, the man behind the vast Metro Centre in Gateshead, spoke eloquently of "breaking into the cycle of decline" through sport. He would like to "prick the conscience" of other property entrepreneurs while recognising that at one time "cranes on sky-

lines" were enough for him. Before long there will plenty of cranes at the Millennium site on the Greenwich Peninsula, part of a whole swath of London that Sir John describes as being more deprived than anything he has seen in the Northeast. Most people will know it as the spot where the camera starts at the beginning of EastEnders. So far, a shortlist of four consortia has been drawn up for the 32-acre Millennium village, the first phase in the development of the site which in size is equal to half of Kensington and most of Notting Hill. The village - 1,000 homes including social housing, a school, health facilities and shops—will not include large leisure areas. They form an important part of the masterplan for the whole though, according to Ralph Luck, English Partnerships development director for the Greenwich Peninsula, "We expect sport to engender a strong community spiril and especially around the focus of the school," he says. As yet, then, nothing to suggest a Peninsula football team might one day join the London clubs.

Somebody stands to gain from the Labour party's decisioo to downsize in Bury SI Edmunds. Since it failed to take the seat at the general election, the party is leaving its prominent headquarters in the historic core of the town for smaller premises nearer the centre. The appropriately pink-painted Lansbury House has a Georgian façade, hut many of the period features inside have not survived. At present it is laid out as offices and meeting rooms, but could be turned back into a private home. The guide price is £145,000, through Bedfords (01284 769999).

In recent months, the amount of property available to let has grown more quickly than the numbers of people looking to rent, Hamptons International letting division says. Penny Parr-Head, director, says that in July, August and September last year. there were on average 3.1 applicants in London for every property. That has dropped to 2.4 this year. In the country, the same quarter a year ago saw six applicants for every available property while the latest figures show that number to have dropped to 4.6 a property. However, in the third quarter of 1996, the country saw an 8 per cent drop in stock levels and they have not improved this year.



Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

### Why the euro may bring a bonus for home-buyers

Interest rates within those countries about to embark on the single currency adventure are dramatically lower than those in the UK. So when we join, mortgage rates will plunge, right? Quite possible, says Offord German , but house prices will not soar.

Comparing property prices in sterling and euros is the least of the questions facing propenv-owners in the UK if and when we join. At present the curo's forerunner, the ecu, is Worth about 68p and the pound about 1.48 ecus. It is generally assumed that the pound is uncomfortably strong at present and after the last government's harrowing experience inside the ERM where the pound

was overvalued at the start, any future government would want to see sterling weaker before it is switched into euros. But whatever the eventual rate at which the transition is made, valuing UK assets in the common currency should be a straightforward process. The impact on UK mort-

gage rates is likely to be much more important. UK interest rates are currently as much as points above equivalent French and German rates, and UK rates are more likely to converge on European rates rather than the other way round.

It may well be another five vears before a referendum is held to test public opinion and at least seven more years before we could adopt the euro, but if it does look like going ahead it is in everyone's interest that interest rates converge well be-

fore the actual point of entry. At least half of today's home-owners will have moved home by then, hut most of them will still he making monthly payments on their home loans so mortgage rates are a matter of real concern and interest to most property own-Fortunately there is plenty

of scope these days for borrowers to switch from fixed rates to variable rates of interest on their mortgages or vice versa, and to move their mortgages from one lender to another without actually moving home. But some recent research for Barclays Mortgages shows that 29 per cent of a sample of 900 people aged 20 and over would still look a standard variable rate mortgage if they move house. That means almost one borrower in three is

fixed-rate mortgage. Another 27 per cent would look for a cashback oo their rate). If the discounted rate is 10 to 20 years.

still unaware of the attractions

of discounted rate mortgages.

cashbacks and various forms of

new mortgage, and another 18 per cent would be attracted by a discount rate in the early stages of their new loan, usually for 12 months, sometimes spread over two or three years. Those should be irresistible bargains for borrowers who are willing to tie themselves to

their new lender. But these days most if not all cashback and discount-rate loans require borrowers to stay with the same lender after the incentive rate has lapsed, and pay standard variable rates for up to five years.

They usually impose substantial penalties for early repayment - usually within five years of taking out the loan, incloding the repayment of the cashback in full, or up to six months interest on discount mortgages (unless they move house and take out a new loan with the same lender, although this is usually at the standard stretched out over more than one year the penalties can apply for even longer.

A further 25 per cent would consider a short-term fixed rate, which even now in the week when more and more lenders are lifting their standard variable rates to 8.7 per cent there are plenty of fixed-rate offers that could cost them as much as 2 per cent less than the standard variable rate. Once again however most of these hargain fixed rate offers commit the borrower to staying with the same lender for some time after the fixed rate ends and reverts to the standard variable rate.Another 22 per cent are willing to take out mortgages at rates fixed for anything from five to ten years. Many of these borrowers are over 40s who are attracted by the prospect of a fixed repayment rate at today's mortgage rates, which are low by the levels of the last

Some of these longer-term are already relatively much fixed rates incur no penalty for early repayment, but many of them do effectively lock borrowers in for the full term, and if the UK does join the single currency those rates could start

The once irresistible rise in the proportion of owners has stabilised. It is now more fashionable to rent than it once was

to look quite expensive. Looking further into the implications of a single currency, many borrowers are already asking what effect a euro-mortgage would have on property prices. On past experience a secular trend to lower interest rates, reducing the monthly cost of servicing a loan, should encourage borrowers to hid up property prices. But UK property prices

more expensive as a percentage of average earnings than they are on the continent, and it is hard to see how the differential could justifiably widen further. In fact a significant number of our sample think a euromortgage would make it easier for them to up sticks and work on the continent. That might be a kind of wish fulfillment, hut emigration of a significant scale reducing the demand for UK property cannot he ruled out.

It is also worth noting that the once irresistible rise in the proportion of home-owners in the UK has stabilised around 66 per cent over the past eight years, and it is now much more trendy to rent a home than it was when most tenants lived in council houses. That has reduced demand for owner occupation and helped to keep property prices down since the Lawson boom collapsed.

Most important however is the combination of planning restrictions on huilding new homes in the UK, and the long-running tax advantages of home ownership. Compared with the continent, where 100 per cent mortgages and tax concessions on mortgage interest are less common and stamp duty is much higher, British borrowers have had it very easy. Although planning restrictions are unlikely to be abandoned if they are relaxed, and property is forced to bear a bigger share of the tax burden, home-owners could be pressured to prize their pensions above their property over the next decade.

The Independent has published a free 27-page 'Guide to Mongages', by Nic Cicutti, the paper's award-winning Personal Finance Editor. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the coupon on page 4.



### Under the bland looks lurks Jekyll and Hyde

A car that boasts the frugality of diesel with the punch of a petrol engine? Roger Bell puts the Carisma to the test.

Mitsubishi claims to have unlocked the secret of motoring's Holy Grail: petrol performance with diesel ecocomy. Eureka? Perhaps. The amazing engine that's capable of this technological party trick is found under the bonnet of the unremarkable Carisma, a pleasant, well-made family saloon (or hatchback) that looks and drives much like any other car io the Ford Moodeo class.

The word "revolutionary" does oot spring to mind when you slip behind the wheel of the Carisma GDI. Nor does "charismatic". You'd oever know from the rather bland driving experience that its petrol engine - basically an ordinary four-cylinder, 16-valver with special tweaks evolved over three decades breaks important oew ground.

The clever bit is that the GD1 (gas direct injection) is really two engines

in one, capable at one extreme of exceptional frugality (without the gruffness that characterises many diesels) and at the other of considerable verve and muscularity. Because it's so fuel efficient, harmful emissions are also reduced. Mitsubishi claims a 20 per cent reduction in carboo dioxide, the "greenhouse" gas responsible for global warming.

Driven with restraint, avoiding full power, the GDI runs on an air/fuel mixture so lean (lots of air, little petrol) it would cause an ordinary engine not only to misfire but emit excessive amounts of NOr. This "lean-burn" trick is achieved through various clever ploys including injecting the petrol (gas) directly into the combustion chambers, rather than into the passage that feeds them. Electronics and unusual shaping of the ports and cylinder bead play key roles, too. Mitsubishi resolved the NOx problem with a special catalytic

Call for full overtaking power and the air/fuel ratio richens, from an economy-first 40 to one to a powerbiased 15 to one. Result: plenty of shortterm zap at the expense of economy. You cannot enjoy the best of both worlds simultaneously. Drive the GDI

hard all the time and it will slurp fuel as heavily as an ordinary engine. Drive it with restraint, as you would around town or when motorway cruising, and it rewards with diesel-like economy. Fears that the transition between the two levels of performance might be snappily abrupt are unfounded: delivery is seamlessly linear, whether you're

ambling or pressing on.
That Mitsubishi's wonder engine fulfils its promise of combining poke with parsimony is not in dispute. It's the exteot of its superiority that's open to debate. Using Ford's 1.8 Mondeo (four cylinders, 16 valves, conventional indirect injection) as a yardstick, the new Carisma stacks up pretty well on specificatioos (Moodeo's in hrackets): power 125bhp (115bhp), 0-62mpb 9.7 seconds (11.0), combined fuel consumption 45.6mpg (36.2). A clear performance/economy win, then, for the Carisma - and oo catches. Other petrol rivals, including 1.8 versions of the Toyota Carina, Vauntiali Vectra, Renault Laguna and Citroen Xantia, are Mitsubishi Carisma 1.8 GDI also said to be humbled.

Mitsubishi monitored the coosumption of 13 Carisma 1.8 GDIs oo a recent press launch and concluded from trip-computer readings (accuracy unknown) that their average coosumption was 44mpg, compared with a mean of 36.6mpg for the superseded models with conventional 1.8 engines. Over the same route, diesel Carismas, powered by turbo-motors that are hardly state of the art, aver-

aged 45mpg.

Although Mitsubishi is ahead of the field in lean-burn technology - several of its other models use GDI engines in Japan - it is by no means alone. Rivals are working oo similar engines that cut consumption and emissions without penalising performance. The end of the road for the diesel, then? Hardly. Expect the next direct-injection generation to reopen a significant economy advantage, eveo over the Carisma GDL One thing is certain: the healthy fuel efficiency war that's looming is good oews for consumers, oever mind the environment

Specifications

Price: £14,510-16,485. Engine: 1,834cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, 125bhp at 5,500rpm. Five-speed manual, frontwheel drive. Performance: top speed 125mph, 0-60mph in 9.7 sec. Fuel consumption 45.6mpg combined cycles.

Audi A4 1.8, from £19,011. Solid, well made, refined ... expensive.

Citroën Xantia 2.1 turbo-diesel SX, £17,645. Elegant, expensive hatch with magic-carpet ride.

Ford Mondeo 1.8, from £14,875. Class best-seller is more cotertaining to drive than the Carisma, but not as lively or economical.

Vaudall Vectra 1.8, from £14,960. Competitive performance but well beaten by Carisma for economy.

VW Passat 1.9TDi 11OS, £16,800. Good looks, roomy, well made. Fast and frugal, but Carisma much cheaper.

### Gas for the Smoke, petrol for the rural retreat

Volvo is leading the charge into gas-powered vehicles with its Bi-Fuel, reports Roger Bell.

Natural gas is just as good at powering your car as roasting the Suoday joint. Wishful thinking? Far from it. Volvo's Bi-Fuel will run on compressed natural gas (CNG) just as well as it will on unleaded petrol.

Volvo claims the Bi-Fuel - not an after-market conversion but a factory-built model based oo the 2.5 S70 saloon and V70 estate - is the cleanest, least polluting car you can buy in Britain. The idea is that you run oo gas (methane) in urban areas, where pollution is worst, and switch to petrol elsewhere. Covered by Volvo's normal three-year, 60,000-mile warranty, the automaticonly Bi-Fuel costs £20,825 - the same as the petrol-only \$70 2.5 automatic.

Uotil quite receotly, there was little or no cost incentive to use low-pollution

eas in Britain, However, successive cuts between fill-ups is extended - by up to in excise duty oo CNG and LPG (liquid petroleum gas) have seen its price petrol/diesel. British Gas says the equiv-65p for conventional fuels. The Natural Gas Vehicle Association (members indude Ford, Rover and Vauxhall, besides Volvo) reckous that Britain's NGV. movement is oow ripe for expansion.

According to Volvo, the S70's bydrocarboo emissions are down 88 per cost of conversion to gas, which is our cent, comparing gas with petrol. Carboo moooxide is down 77 per cent, nitrogeo oxide 20 per cent, greenhouse carbon dioxide by the same amount. Urban bus operators are prime targets for conversion, as gas eliminates the high particulate emissions - black smoke associated with diesels. CNG engines are also quieter and smoother than diesels, as bus users in Southampton, where there's a fleet of 16 Dennis Darts with roof-top gas tanks, will testify.

With two separate fuel tanks, range

150 miles in the case of the S70. Fears about safety are dispelled by Volvo. The drop substantially below that of reinforced gas tank will withstand massive impact, it asserts. And if its alent cost per litre of CNG is 43p, against lighter-than-air cooteot did escape, it the ground. Unlike petrol and LPG, CNG does oot oeed transporting in bulk by road. It's piped to the pumps, using existing underground octworks.

There are snags - starting with the mally a four-figure sum. For roving drivers, the oumber of gas refuelling stations - 17 British Gas ones at the last count, though others are planned - is unacceptably small. The infrastructure needed to make CNG or LPG viable nationally is in a classic chicken and egg situation: oo demand, oo forecourt pumps; no pumps, oo customers. It is this that has so far restricted gas users to urban fleet operators with their own supply. Another deterrent is that the large gas tank occupies much of the boot.



Volvo's Bi-Fuel is based on the S70 saloon and V70 estate

To change from one fuel to the other, you simply flick a switch. Should the gas run out, the engine reverts to unleaded. It also starts oo petrol, which ignites more readily than CNG. Per-

2,435cc five-cylinder engine is hardly vigorous. On gas - which cuts power by about 10 per ceot - acceleration is sluggish. Performance apart, you couldn't tell which fuel was in use. The formance? Even oo petrol, the S70's engine is smooth and quiet on both.

GAVIN GREEN

### The Singapore sting

You can bet, as New Labour's boffins thrash out the details of oext year's big anti-car transport policy statement due in the Spring, that they will be casting an envious eye on one of the world's smallest yet most lucrative car markets (lucrative for the government,

Singapore, where I've speot the past week, has the world's highest motoring taxes. A Ford Ka, £7,995 to you or me in Britain, costs \$\$105,000 (£42,000). A Land Rover Discovery costs £140,000 (£21,000 in Britain). The vast majority of that price is tax, of course. The official line is that the taxes discourage car growth, preventing traffic chaos in a small, rich city. This is no doubt a corollary. Just as attractive, these taxes are a massive cash cow, paying for oumerous

public projects. Oo top of the car price taxes, motorists pay road tax averaging £800 a year, and a road pricing levy for access to the city ceotre of about £25 a mooth. Next year electronic road pricing starts: Singapore will be the first country to have it. Large gantries over city ceoure feeder roads will automatically "read" and deduct credits from paycards placed in the windscreeo. Despite these costs, Singaporeans cootinue to buy their cars in growing oumbers. Eveo in a small city state with good public transport, they want independent

The biggest single motoring tax is the Certificate of Entitlement (COE). an idea which could well This year \$\$12 billion (£4.8 billioo) will be raised by them. You oeed one to register a car, and they are rationed every year to control car oumbers. Their cost varies the smaller the engine, the less it costs. A COE for a 2.0-litre Mondeo, for instance, is currently worth \$\$68,000 (£27,000).

A COE lasts a car for 10 years. After that, another one is oeeded. As there is oo concession for used cars, most old cars are scrapped. A few are exported to other Asian markets. Owners of valuable or prized classic cars usually fork out again. The oumber of oew COEs issued every year is the same as the amount of old cars taken off the road, although the government typically allows for 3 per cent growth, to help satisfy car demand among Singapore's increasingly affinent population.

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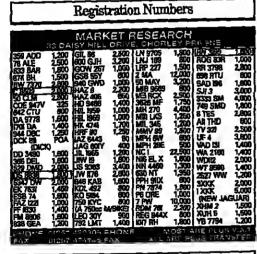
As an upshot, Singapore has an incredibly young car populatioo. And, as old cars cause far more pollution than new catalysed models, the city air quality is usually good (at least it will be when the forest fires in Indooesia are put out - the smoke has been causing the most appalling haze).

No one is suggesting that Jaguar driver John Prescott will be pushing for four- or five-fold increases in car prices come May. Not even the greenest MP would suggest such a surefire way to block up the economy-But the car permit principle - the certificate of. eotitlemeot idea - would certainly appeal to some legislators for use in crowded coourbations. We certainly woo't see it in May. But longer term, if traffic grows at the level forecast, it is possible in our larger cities - albeit at oothing like the cost of COEs in Singapore.

More probable in the short term is electronic road pricing, at least for those cotering big coourbations. The results of the Singaporean system will be closely monitored.

Even more likely, next year we will see the biggest-ever jump in moappeal to some of New toring costs. The RAC Labour's greener MPs. and the AA will com-Earth will welcome it. and "Hooest" John Prescott will say he had to do it, for the sake of our kids. Some environmental good may come depending oo engine size: of it, if older polluting cars are penalised, and frugal new cars are eocouraged. But by and large, we will keep oo driving - just as they do in Singapore. Motorists are an almost limitless source of fuods, owing to the massive appeal of cars. And the Treasury, just as in Singapore, knows it.

#### MOTORING



Renault

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0s 1997 (P) Adriatic blue (metallic superglass paint). abs. pas. engine immobiliser, drivers a/bag, remote pas, engine immobiliser, c/l, e/w, s/r, and mirrors.

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afternoon of romance... No plans. No worries. Just the two of us out and about, relaxing with a coffee or two. And to think, I used to get bored with doing nothing. We're off to the cinema this evening, so, see you later ... 77

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Voice personals

MY WORST CAR/ANDREW NUTTER'S VAUXHALL CHEVETTE

### Gran's banger becomes Tom Cruise's missile

I was 2I and bad failed my driving test five times and to be honest I was starting to feel a little bit desperate. I really thought that I would never get to own a car. Eventually, though, I did pass, and as a present my grandma gave me her treasured car which turned out to be a Vauxhall Chevette automatic.

Now it was definitely the perfect car for her, but I had my prototype Tom Cruise image to think of So a small, blue, automatic hatchback with oo stereo or any other mod cons was hardly what I had in mind. No wooder the Chevette soon got rechristened, very appropriately as it turned out, as the "Shove it". At least it looked very tidy. In fact the bodywork was absolutely perfect - notil, that is, I got to work on it. That was as a result of driving like the complete outter that I am. I managed to chalk up three minor crashes in very quick succession. This was mostly as a result of sliding on the icy roads because I would be at the fruit and veg markets for 4am during the winter.

Evectually my luck ran out oo a return journey from the market in the run-up to Christmas. I was in a traffic jam at the time and the combination of



Vauxhall's 'Shove it' suffered from a combination of ice and inexperience

the early starts, oo radio to keep me entertained and a 5mph crawl meant that I quickly dropped off to sleep. Not surprisingly I crashed into the car in froot. It was very embarrassing and I felt as though the whole world was watching me. The police towed my car away and there was no doubt that the little "Shove-it" was a

complete write off. It was

parked - well, dumped really - outside my restaurant and looked like a complete eyesore.

However, to my complete amazement someone offered me £75 for the wreckage. I used that as part of a deposit on my dream car, a BMW 23 roadster. This couldn't be more of a contrast to old "Shove-it" and takes my breath away every time I go out for a drive. I feel

very James Bond and have eveo added a very personal touch in that the oumberplate reads A1 NUT

These days everyone seems to stay out of the way. I wonder why that is?

Nutter', a radically different cookery programme on Cha

